



# ISLE OF WIGHT FAMILY HISTORY SOCIETY



[www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk](http://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk)

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## Programme of Events

Monthly Meetings are held, unless stated otherwise, in the Hunnyhill Room at the Riverside Centre, The Quay, Newport PO30 2QR.

Doors open at 7 pm talks start at 7:30 pm

Admission members = £1; non-members = £2

**It is not known when indoor public meetings will be able to restart or what restrictions might be imposed. The events listed below were booked before the restrictions were imposed (see page 5).**

DATE	SUBJECT	SPEAKER
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> September	Nothing booked due to Covid-19	
Monday 5 <sup>th</sup> October	The ARP organisation in World War II	Barry REED, Gareth and Val SPRAKE
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> November	The fortification of Culver Down	Tim WANDER

For an up-to-date list for the year, see the **Meetings** tab on the Society's website at: [www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk](http://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk)

### 2020 CALENDAR YEAR SUBSCRIPTIONS

Standard Membership ( <i>no paper journal</i> )	£ 6.00
Classic UK Membership	£12.00
Classic Europe Membership	£15.00
Classic Outside Europe Membership	£20.00

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Authors are expected to have checked for factual accuracy and to have obtained the necessary permissions for lengthy quotations and the use of illustrations.

## **Editorial**

10 years ago, I edited my first journal for the IWFHS.

Almost 40% of the August 2019 Journal was taken up by the Minutes of the AGM, reports on talks to the One Day Conference and photographs taken on the day. Any concerns I may have had about filling the 64 pages of this edition were, thanks to you the Members, soon forgotten. Not only could I fill this edition but I have articles for the November Journal as well.

New articles, photographs, illustrations and snippets to use as fillers are always welcome.

Peter SPENCER (IWFHS Member 2187)

Journal Editor

**Email:** [journal.editor@isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk](mailto:journal.editor@isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk)

### Cover Picture

Norris Castle, East Cowes (constructed 1795-1799) was designed by James WYATT for Lord Henry SEYMOUR (1746-1830) the 2<sup>nd</sup> son of the Marquis of Hertford.

## **Non-Committee Officers**

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**The deadline for the November journal is 10<sup>th</sup> October**

## Heritage Resource Centre

**West Chapel, Northwood Cemetery, Newport Road, Cowes PO31 7ER**  
**(this Address is NOT to be used for correspondence)**

***We are planning to re-open the HRC in September – see page 5***

Tuesdays	1 pm to 4 pm
Wednesdays	10 am to 1 pm
Saturdays	10 am to 1 pm

**Enquiries to: [enquiries@isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk)**

We can also be available at other times by arrangement with the Librarian, Hazel PULLEN (*see inside front cover*).

The Friends of Northwood Cemetery will have representatives on hand at other times during the week, notably Thursday and Friday mornings.

We are pleased to be part of the Heritage Resource Centre at the West Chapel, Northwood Cemetery.

**Please note:** Northwood Cemetery is a working cemetery, managed by the Isle of Wight Council Bereavement Services department. Priority is given to funeral services and visitors should be respectful of the needs of people attending such services and other visitors to the grounds.

There is very limited parking at the Cemetery. Visitors **must not** use the nearby Cowes Medical Centre car park. The Park & Ride car park at Somerton is a few 100 metres away (one bus stop). Southern Vectis bus services (Route 1) from the Cowes Red Jet Terminal or Newport Bus station which stop at the Cowes Medical Centre (use the service showing '**Park & Ride**'; it operates approximately every 15 minutes). Buses showing '**Round House**' use a different route.

A DDA compliant toilet facility is available to visitors.

We have subscriptions to the following resources: *Ancestry*, *Findmypast* and *Isle of Wight County Press Archives*.

We have facilities to copy, scan and print materials for personal use (*subject to copyright where applicable*).

The Heritage Resource Centre will be 'free to use' but donations towards our running costs and any materials will be welcomed. Non-members will be asked to become temporary members (just a quick signature and a suggested minimum donation of £1 is all that is required) to enable us to offer access to privileged material available to our full members.

## **Chairman's and Webmaster's Report**

As we move from lockdown, blinking into the light of the 'new normal', I find it ironic that 5 years ago I ran a workshop for committee members where we tried to anticipate what the Society would be doing in 2020.

None of us could have foreseen the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and none of us will be the same. Tentative steps to re-establish our previous routines are taking place. We are planning to re-open the Heritage Resource Centre in September but, until we know what the potential demand will be, we are proposing a much more restricted regime with limited opening times and no more than 2 pre-booked visitors at a time. I am working on putting into a place an online booking system for this but phone or email bookings will also be possible. More details will be sent to members during August.

We have no news either on how the County Record Office will resume business, nor when and how the Riverside Centre will re-open. As a fall back we are looking at alternative venues to see if we can re-start our Speakers' talks. I urge all members to let us know what your views are on where and when you would like us to hold such meetings.

Elsewhere, more professional services using Zoom etc are being advertised (see Janet FEW's piece on pages 7-8) but for the time being we are concentrating on responding to research enquiries by email and to continue the background transcription work on various data sets such as the Royal Navy Personnel records and the Newspaper Birth, Marriage and Death announcements (now transcribed up to 1912). Thanks as always to all the volunteers quietly working away on these projects.

We have also made good progress with the website redevelopment, with the membership processes and functionality well advanced, which should improve our ability to manage our relationships with members.

I would like to welcome Claire WILLIS (see page 9) as a new Committee member taking over from Sally McCONKEY as Treasurer. Many thanks to Sally for her contributions. I hope that we can continue to keep the Society's finances in good shape as we move into the next phase of our existence as a Society. Clearly, we need to constantly review the operations of the Society to consider any changes arising from the Covid-19 restrictions as we continue to offer our members relevant and useful services.

Geoff ALLAN (IWFHS Member: 0392)  
Chairman and Webmaster

## **Membership Secretary's Report**

There is not normally much to report during this quarter, which historically is the least active for memberships.

Despite global challenges membership applications have been flowing in. Surprisingly, although there has reportedly been an upsurge in people hitting the internet to search for their ancestors for the first time (marked by some intermittent service on some commercial web sites), there have been no more or less than would be expected at this time of year. For those who are interested, I have provided a breakdown of our current membership, by geographic area, below:

Australia & NZ	7.5%
Canada	2.5%
Europe	1%
United States	2.5%
Other	0% (2 memberships)
United Kingdom	86.5% (of which 35% reside on the IOW)

We have done our utmost to keep everyone informed during the past few months, which has kept me busy with bulk mailings of emails and letters. I believe that overall our postal services have provided a good service throughout and I'm not aware of any particular issues. However, as our Journal Editor has kindly reminded me, this has not been the case everywhere. If you have not received your copy of the May journal, please let me know and I will post a replacement to you.

The lockdown here in the UK has been a good opportunity to attend to some personal housekeeping and catching up on some of my own research. Part of that involved keeping a promise to myself to invest in a Y-DNA test. After three weeks excitedly waiting for my kit to arrive I had to endure another two anxiously awaiting its return to the testing company, before the anticipation of waiting for the test to be complete – but I'm sure it will be worth the wait.

Dean BAGWELL (IWFHS Member: 2043)

Membership Secretary

**Email:** [membership.secretary@isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk](mailto:membership.secretary@isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk)



## **From the Desk at Coles Manning**



So, another missive from lockdown. I seem to have spent most of the last three months giving and attending Zoom presentations and how lovely it has been to see my family history friends from all over the world, including the Island. I do sometimes feel that my headphones are melded to my head though.

One topic of conversation has been family photographs. I think some people have used their enforced stay at home to catalogue, label and scan their family albums.

Some of you may remember that I mislaid my precious historic album for a while and what a shock that was. In some ways, I felt as if my past had been stolen from me. Thankfully, the album was recovered and many more of the photographs are now scanned.

I am very interested in people's relationship with photographs of their ancestors. Do you feel a greater affinity to those relations, who you may not have known in life but for whom you possess an image? I think most of us feel closer to some ancestors than we do others; we have our 'favourites'. Does having their photograph affect this?

*My Heritage* ([www.myheritage.com](http://www.myheritage.com)) have now the option of photographic enhancements so you can 'colourise' old black and white or sepia photographs. If you do not have a *My Heritage* subscription, you are only allowed a few of each, so choose wisely before your allowance runs out. The colourising is quite fun but I am not sure how I feel about what is in a sense tampering with the evidence.

On the subject of tampering with the evidence, as an historian I cannot ignore the recent removal and vandalising of statues. I firmly believe that history should be preserved in all its dimensions. No human being is all good or all bad and both sides should be shown.

The erecting of a statue does imply that the person who is being commemorated is worthy of veneration in some way. We cannot ignore the fact that some of those depicted acted in a way that we now regard as abhorrent, even if society might have viewed those actions differently at the time.

We do need to remember our past, not just our national past but our own personal family histories, which is why we are family historians.

We need to accept that not all our ancestors will have acted in ways that we are now comfortable with and it is important that we do not airbrush the unsavoury aspects away. It is also important to view our ancestors in the context of their times.

We should be working hard to uncover the social historical background, what they wore, what they ate, what their homes looked like and so on. Part of this context should extend to attitudes.

Obviously just because 'everyone thought it was fine at the time' does not make an action right but it does help us to understand why they might have done things that appal us. I have written about this issue in more detail on my website:

<https://thehistoryinterpreter.wordpress.com/2020/06/16/preserving-our-history-a-reflection-on-recent-events> .

It is something that we should all be thinking about.

Janet FEW (IWFHS Member: 0050)  
Vice-President

## **Obituaries**

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of the following Members; messages of condolence have been sent to their families:

Kathleen Mary LUFF (IWFHS Member: 0444) who died in July 2019. Kathleen had been a member of the Society since 1991. We only became aware of her passing at the end of May 2020. Her son Robert LUFF has taken over her membership (see page 64).

Michael KEARVELL (IWFHS Member: 2564) who died earlier this year.

## **Meet Our New Treasurer – Claire WILLIS**



I was born and bred on the Island, having spent most of my life living in East Cowes, Newport and now Cowes. Until recently I was a manager at St Mary's Hospital, where I worked for nearly 30 years. I am a graduate member of the Chartered Institute of Legal Executives and latterly dealt with legal matters at the hospital. I have held a committee post before, as the Secretary of Cowes Amateur Operatic and Dramatic Society between 2009 and 2012.

I am relatively new to family history having been introduced to it by my partner Keith about 5 years ago. My mum had been interested in family history and I inherited an old tree completed by a cousin on my paternal side and a photo album of old photographs, many helpfully with names attached.

My dad's LINTERN family, originated from Somerset where they were agricultural labourers before moving to the Island in 1894 and ran the New Inn at Shalfleet. My grandfather married into the BRIGHT family from Wootton, where the family lived before my dad and his siblings left to have their own families. My mum's PAYNE family were Islanders with the early relatives also working the land. My grandfather ran an antiques shop in Sandown before he retired. My maternal line also includes the TAYLOR family who had a carrier business on the Island from 1859.

Since starting my research I have not only made contact with family members that I had lost touch with but have found 4 new cousins, including a new one in Newport that I am looking forward to meeting when we are able.

Keith and I volunteer at the Heritage Resource Centre. We are always out and about on the Island taking photos and making new family histories discoveries.

Claire WILLIS (IWFHS Member: 3115)

**Email:** [treasurer@isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk)

## **Mabel Dora BALL of Cowes (1886-1976) – Part 1**

Notes and reminiscences of Mabel Dora BALL's life, written 1967:

*My paternal grandmother was Mabel Dora BALL. She was born in Cowes in 1886 and her parents were George William BALL (1862-1934), also of Cowes and his wife (and first cousin) Sarah Dorcas BALL (1855-1947) (known as Dora), who was born in Micheldever but was living near Bath before her marriage. Mabel was the eldest of four children – Mabel Dora BALL 1886-1976 (known as Mab), Henty Mary BALL 1887-1969 (known as Mary), Charles James Prior BALL 1893-1973 and Stanley George BALL 1895-1969. When Gran died, she left many notes, cuttings, photos and other memorabilia of her lifetime, including some notes on her own life. The following is a transcript of those notes to which I have added (in italics) a few details to help clarify the narrative.*



I was born at Eden Cottage, Cowes, late in the day on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1886. Doctors William and John HOFFMEISTER were present at my birth, which was prolonged and difficult (no anaesthetics or pain relief). William HOFFMEISTER was Queen Victoria's physician.

This photo shows (from left to right) Mab, George, Dora, Stanley and Charles taken circa 1911.

My parents were first cousins – my father was George William BALL, second child and elder son of James BALL, builder and undertaker, who built many of the houses in Weston Road (then and still a private road),

Victoria Road and Granville Road. He was the first builder in Cowes and made his own bricks at Place Road and Lee Farm Brickyard, Wellow. He imported slates from Wales, doors and timber from Sweden. He restored St Mary's Church and built the Rectory as well as various Chapels and other buildings all over the Island.

One of his carpenters, a Mr COTTELL, used to make the pens for Lady de HORSEY's etchings (I owned several of them). His carpenter's shop foreman, Tom WESTBROOK, left the business early in the 1900s and set up his own business of that name in Cowes.

Mr F O RUSSELL of Yarmouth was apprenticed with the firm and later set up his own business in Yarmouth, which my father helped him with (this business was taken over by Frank HAIGH, Mab's middle son, in the early 1970s). Other apprentices became builders in Totland. Harry ANGEL was our stone mason who used to cut the gravestones for those buried by the firm; he had a mate, "wall-eyed" JACKSON so named because he had lost an eye in an accident in the lime pit in the yard.

The stables held four horses and they were looked after by *Elkins, Street and Langley*. They would be taken up Park Road in Cowes at 5:30pm and put out to grass at Place Stables. The second gate of the Recreation Field was the entrance to our builder's yard, where the stables and all the fields to Place Brickyard (now houses) and the fields opposite were ours. We later had 12 cows for our own fresh milk kept here, looked after by George PARSONS who also made and burned the bricks there. In 1911, when the milk contract failed, I used to make butter from the milk, in George's farmhouse and sell it to *Dear & Morgan*, grocers, for pocket money. Father gave me a small churn and utensils and a man to work the churn. Percy HAIGH (my then husband) was away at sea at the time.

Our other brickyard at Lee Farm was managed by BUNDY, NEWBERRY and one other man, who made bricks there during the early 1900s. (*BUNDY was still there in the 1920s as Paddy, Frank & Stan, Mab's sons, used to walk to the brickyard from The Retreat and make miniature bricks in matchboxes, which he fired for them. After BUNDY died in early 1940s, Frank bought his house in Wellow, originally called Haltons House, next to the Methodist chapel and renamed it 'Bundys' in his memory.*)

In about 1893, when I was about seven and sister Mary was about six, we had an old friend Mr CURZONS come to visit us. Our nurse got called downstairs as a parcel had arrived for her from her son. Mary pulled the guard from the fire in order to light a candle and set her pinafore on fire. I told her to stand still and shouted for mother. Dad, mother, Mr CURZONS and two maids all rushed up two flights of stairs. Mother pushed Dad aside and enveloped Mary in her voluminous Victorian skirt. Luckily, a wool sash had saved Mary's face and she was unharmed but she was sent to bed. She thought it was a great joke. I sat on mother's knee and was fed spoonful of egg.

When Grandma BALL (*Maria CLARK, James BALL's wife*) died in 1896, we went to live at The Glen, Cowes. One day brother Stanley (about six months old), Charles (just over two) and I were walking with two nursemaids – they came every afternoon to take us out for a walk with the pram and stayed until after baths and bed – at the bottom of Egypt Hill the maid told us the Queen was coming and we must curtsy to her.

A man on a white horse appeared first, followed by a low open carriage containing Queen Victoria, who smiled at us, and Princess Beatrice. A man on a brown horse brought up the rear. Weston Road at the top of The Glen was a private road, with a gate owned by us. The houses there were built by *James Ball & Son* (also houses in Granville Road).

James BALL used to run across fields opposite the Works to catch the train to Newport, waving his umbrella to stop the train. Later father would send me (carrying documents) to catch the train at Mill Hill Station – when we heard the whistle blow as the train left Cowes Station.

When the *Liberal Hall* in Denmark Road (built by my father) was opened, I presented a golden key to Sir Godfrey BARING. My father also built Denmark Road School and, for many years afterwards, I was paid rent for a strip of land, about one yard wide, that fronted the school. The land had been owned by father and he also owned land adjoining the railway, where there was a garden. I often went there to pick fruit – raspberries, apples and vegetables. At “The Glen”, we had a large heated greenhouse with purple and muscatel grapes; old Mr PATEY used to keep the boiler going in winter to keep it warm. Mr PATEY used to wear a beautifully worked smock on Sundays when he walked round Three Gates (*probably now part of Plessey Siemens*).

There were also 12 pots of arum lilies and, by watching Mr PATEY I learnt to thin grapes and take cuttings from geraniums, calceolaria and lobelia, which he planted in the front garden. There was a lovely purple clematis on the north side of the house and a creeper with red leaves. All over that, and outside my bedroom window (facing the sea), was a tea rose that I used to climb out of the window to pick. There was a monkey tree outside the dining room window as well as many apple, plum and cherry trees and a walnut tree – they all gave better flavoured fruit than many of today’s trees. There were also large cucumber frames and yellow and red tomatoes on the bank outside the greenhouse, where they ripened well and were free from disease. Granddad Charles (mother’s father) came in most days and I remember he used to walk in the garden and greenhouse. My sister Mary used to tease and defy him and one day he said, in my hearing: “She is possessed with a devil!”

Granddad Charles BALL and his second wife (Phillipa Thorold HALLIDAY) lived in Erin Cottage at the corner of Fellows Road, with a large garden at one side of it and a small garden in front - with a myrtle tree which I loved. Phillipa used to go to Osborne House and teach the piano to the Queen’s children – having to play for Queen Victoria first. Granddad and Phillipa used to walk to Trinity Church every Sunday morning – he would be in a top hat and morning coat and she in a black lace cape.

In winter she used to wear a black respirator over her mouth attached by fine elastic to her ears.

Later they came to the Methodist Church and then to the chapel in Victoria Road. The Reverend BAILEY of Trinity Church and Granddad were good friends and he (the Reverend) used to visit and say to Granddad "You know your Bible much better than I do". Mark Guy PEARCE, a noted Methodist, was a frequent visitor together with Reverend Dr Charles BALL, my mother's brother, Mr WARD of *Ward Bowie & Co*, London Solicitors and Mr DOULTON of London, a great friend of the family who gave me a silver backed hairbrush and mirror for my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday.

I saw Princess Beatrice, with her daughter Ena, review the soldiers on the Parade at Cowes on their return from the Boer War in 1902 (in January or February) and because father was Chairman of Cowes Council at the time, I was chosen to present her with a bouquet; father gave her a written speech of welcome. I recall it was a bitterly cold day and we all wore furs and muffs. Lady BARING, Sir Godfrey's first wife, was expecting her first baby and was invited by Princess Beatrice to ride in their carriage, which she did. Princess Beatrice was a much beloved Governor of the Island and Admiral of the Fleet and her husband was Prince Henry of Battenburg (which has now been anglicised to Mountbatten). I met Princess Beatrice again when she opened a Rescue and Preventive Fete (later renamed *Diocesan Council for Social Work*) held in our garden at Parklands and my son Francis (*Frank*) gave her a bouquet. We also often used to see King Alphonso walking unattended on the Parade at Cowes, when he was courting Princess Ena – I remember a bomb was thrown at their carriage during their wedding procession in Spain. Her dress was splashed with the blood of their attendants - but they were unharmed.

Dad became a Magistrate and County Alderman and a member of the County Council. He had monthly meetings and inspections of the Workhouse and attended other political meetings at Newport. He was also a Guardian of the Poor – sending anonymous grocery parcels at Christmas and attended regular meetings (the old buildings are now part of St Mary's Hospital). I still have a copy of the rules of the House of Industry. He was a Freemason like his father and belonged to Osborne Lodge; he was also Vice Chairman of the Cottage Hospital at East Cowes (the *Frank James Memorial Home*) – Princess Beatrice was chairman.

I first went to school when I was just three – very near Eden Cottage, Cowes. Father or a maid would take me. Miss BOYETT was the head and there was one other mistress. I used to go for mornings only. Father would never have more than one maid live in; others were hired by the hour and came in the afternoons as required.

At school there were about six or eight children, sitting on a form with a desk, slates and pencils for making strokes and pothooks. We learned to read and recite a piece about “ten little fingers and toes, working for mother”. Miss BOYETT just sat and watched us, looking just like Queen Victoria. The other mistress gave us our tasks and then sat tacking curtains for the large bay window – it was full of curtains and green plants, which darkened the room. After this, I went to a day school that was kept by two ladies, who were both friends of my mother, in Mill Hill Road, very near old Dr GIBSON’s house. I was allowed out five minutes before the other girls who teased and chased me.

Dr GIBSON had one son, also a doctor and many daughters and he and his son were Granddad’s (my mother’s father, Charles BALL) doctors. Dad’s father, James BALL had the HOFFMEISTER brothers for his doctors and later ours too (they later changed their surname to AUBREY), followed by Dr MAYO. He lived in a house opposite the bottom of Bars Hill. I remember being taken to a chemist opposite the pontoon by Phillipa Thorold BALL, to have a painful tooth extracted in his little back room. I was just given a glass of water to drink afterwards.

My next dentist lived half-way down Bars Hill and Kate (Mrs FRYER) used to take me. He filled a tooth by gagging my mouth open, putting a piece of *Salvadora persica* in to keep the tooth dry. The first time he did this, without warning, I snatched the whole contraption out and threw it across the room whereupon he calmly picked it up and replaced it in my mouth, without washing it and screwed it very tightly to my jaws – it really hurt. When we came out, Kate comforted me and said, “What a horrid man”. He was dentist to the naval boys at Osborne House, who also hated him. A rather sadistic man I imagine.

Kate FRYER was housekeeper and did all the cooking and cleaning at The Glen and we had apprentices from the Yard to shake mats, clean boots and knives in the large scullery downstairs. The door from there led directly to the greenhouse and garden.

In about 1895-1896 (*age 9 or 10*) I went to boarding school in Westbourne, Bournemouth. The school had only about six or eight boarders but many day girls. It was run by a Mrs HOLLIS – either sister or friend to Miss Madge MAY of Orwell Lodge, Weston Road, Cowes, where many years later I took Francis and Paddy (two of her three sons) to tea and we played bowls on the lawn. Madge May was a sister of Aunt Henty’s husband (Joseph Gladstone MAY), who owned *Dear & Morgan*, the largest provision merchants in Cowes at that time. I remember their wedding at The Glen when I was a bridesmaid and carried a miniature basket of flowers.



They lived in Mill Hill Road, at a house called Rydal Mount. Aunt Henty's first child, a son, died at birth and she was very ill afterwards and, for her benefit, straw was put down in the street outside the house to deaden the sound of the horse traffic. Her monthly nurse was the same one mother had for all of us and mother used to give her a pension of 5 shillings a week until she died.

When I left for school, Mary and I went to say goodbye to Granddad and Grandma at Erin Cottage and we knelt for his blessing. Father took us by boat to Southampton where a small train waited at the top of the pontoon and then puffed along the road to the South West station (now Southampton Central), where it was joined to the main London train from Victoria (not Waterloo) to Bournemouth. We had a large tin foot warmer put at our feet and we were placed in charge of the guard, till we reached Bournemouth West. The school was called Moorlands College and we boarders only had a schoolroom to live in. Dining rooms and kitchen were below stairs where we ate at two long tables. I remember my first meal there was roast beef (burnt outside). Supper was just bread and butter (thick slices left over from tea) mostly with cocoa or water.

Every Sunday, we would walk down through the gardens to Bournemouth town to the Congregational Church. James JONES was the preacher (he was famous and the church was always packed).

The BEALEs were weekly boarders at the school. On the top floor of school were the bedrooms for the little Anglo-Indian boys, two BEALE boys and brothers of girls at school. We never saw them. There was a tall wood division in the playground with the all-day boys and boarders on one side. They were taught by the sister and brother in law of Mrs HOLLIS who lived in a house a short way away.

My pocket money was 3 pence a week – 1 for church (I used to buy a rose from a florist for a penny) and 2 for sweets. I had one or two pots of flowers in the greenhouse there. In one I had violets which were my joy.

We used to walk to the shore for picnics. There was a ruined house in one place that we used to climb over – this forcibly stuck in my mind because of the biblical tale about the house built on sand, although nobody had suggested this idea to me. We also used to walk in the pine woods and to Branksome Chine.

In 1900 I went up to London with mother and met Madame YEATMAN, who escorted all English pupils across from Folkstone to Boulogne and then Paris. We were of all nationalities – American, German, Rumanian, English etc. We had a dancing master from the Opera House who taught us to curtsy to the Queen ready for our “coming-out” etc.

We also had an elocution mistress and history and literature masters. In school, there were 20 little padded rooms, each with a piano, where we were taught and practiced. Under these was a long gallery where we were taught drawing.

Every Sunday the Chaplain, Dr Alfred NOYES, would visit for scripture and at Christmas (which was spent there at school) he would read Charles Dickens' novels to us. He was also Chaplain to the Embassy Church in Rue d'Agessau in central Paris where I attended Queen Victoria's memorial service. During the two years I stayed at Madame YEATMAN's, we visited various museums, churches and, with three girls to one mistress, we drove to Versailles. We visited Le Petit Trianon, Le Grand Irianon, Sèvres China Factory and other well-known places. In our daily walks in the Bois de Boulogne we saw the first "horseless carriage" as well as the Parisiennes parading their toy dogs, which were wearing coats with handkerchiefs in pockets and little boots. There were places where the dogs could be coiffured and dressed. We passed through the Bois and L'Arc de Triomphe on our way to church driving in two horse-drawn, glass sided buses - usually filled with girls. We also went to the Grand Opera, where I saw Sarah BERNHART acting the young Napoleon in L'Aiglon – she was superb. We also attended Le Théâtre Francais for a Christmas pantomime. On one occasion, Madame did not approve of the play and marched us all out.

When I finished in Paris and returned home I was sent to Lausanne, Switzerland for the winter sports of 1903. We had a summer holiday, with a conducted tour. I met Dora HAMBLY and her sister on the tour. The other girls were older and people called us "The Three Graces". Dora was later my bridesmaid at my wedding in 1910. We went to Chamonix and over the Mer de Glace (roped together), Montreaux. I went another time with an "aunt" (a widow) and her three children and at Christmas we went by Finiculaire to Vevey for the skating. She used to make us all go to bed early, herself included. I remember our waiter would put a rosebud on Gladys' and my plate sometimes.

About 1902, my father fought a Court case for the *Freshwater Gas Company* in London – Gustavus THOMPSON was the solicitor. Dr Charles BALL (mother's brother) searched the *British Museum* and found an old law which gave free access to ships upriver; this was pivotal to the case and enabled the case to be won. Yarmouth wanted to charge a toll to the ships going to Freshwater Gas works with coal etc. Father had built the gas works and he owned the majority of the shares.

Fran REES (née HAIGH) (IWFHS Member: 4000)

## Strange Encounter

I was in my garden when one of my staff greeted me with: "There is an old gentleman who wishes to see you, he says that he is one of your family."

I was surprised as coming from a local family I could shake a stick at them. I met an elderly man who introduced himself as Sydney YOUNG. I was taken aback; my own family recollection of our family history only went as far as William Henry YOUNG of Duxmoor Farm in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

Sydney explained that his branch left the Island in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. He was descended from Richard YOUNG of Pan Mill and his son John of both Pan and Shide Mills and whose home was Cosham House (previously known as Cosham Manor). Cosham was on the outskirts of Newport before development encircled it.

Cosham is now South Street and the site of Cosham Manor became the cattle market and now *Marks and Spencer* and *Morrisons* supermarket.

Beyond the Tudor period there are few records but with the help of Clifford WEBSTER and various Record Offices I have gleaned records from 1194, when Henricus JUVENUS (Henry YOUNG) was mentioned, through to 1488.

I suddenly had a family history going back not to the 19<sup>th</sup> Century but in a straight line back to 1488 and one Jone YOUNG. I think that many of the Island YOUNG families are distantly related, here are some of the families we married into.

POILY; OGLANDER; ARNOLD; MONYFIELD; LACEY; PAYNE; COLEMAN; HARLEY; READ; LAWRENCE; SCHOLER; MASON; BUNTER; HEADY; COOPER; WHITTINGTON; WILDY; PITT; TUCKER; SHUTTLET; RUSSEL(L); TIPPS; COOKE; CHEVERTON; VENUS; COTTON; PERRY; HARVEY; SPANNER; WOODFORD; GOODALL; WALKER; TRZEBSKI; THRELFALL; MOSDEL; BUXTON; and BELLAMY.

Favourite female forenames include:

Jone (3), Essebel (3), Edith, Elizabeth, Alice, Margaret, Mary, Anne, Grace, Elinor, Catherine, Susannah, Jane, Ester, Patience, Hester, Caroline, Lucy, Iris, Rose, Nellie, Louisa, Jeanette, Sarah, Betty. Bessie, Clare, Christine and Fortune.

Unfortunately, some of the early wives' names are omitted.

Favourite male forenames include:

Thomas (passed on from father to son); Richard (passed on from father to son); William; John; Jeremie; Anthony (passed on from father to son); Mark; James (passed on from father to son); Joel, Samuel, George, Peter, and Bartholomew.

The YOUNGs were a farming family and tenanted, Duxmoor. Old Park, Lower Knighton, Rill, Ramsdown and Newnham Farms.

Anthony's widow of Newnham Farm was known as Dame Anthony and has a common named after her.

Raymond YOUNG (IWFHS Member: 2938)

### ***Hampshire Chronicle - Monday 26<sup>th</sup> July 1784***

Extract of a letter from Cowes dated 15<sup>th</sup> July 1784

This afternoon arrived His Majesty's ship *Orestes* and Excise Revenue cutters from a cruise and it brought in with them two large smuggling luggers which they cut out of Christchurch Harbour, under very heavy fire from the smugglers, in which Mr William ALLEN, Master of the *Orestes*, was killed and two or three of her men wounded.

Extract of a letter from Cowes dated 17<sup>th</sup> July 1784

Yesterday the Coroner's Inquest on the body of Mr William ALLEN, Master of His Majesty's ship *Orestes* who was killed on Thursday morning last by a party of smugglers on his endeavouring with several other boats to seize two large smuggling luggers, which lay in Christchurch Harbour and which had landed a very considerable quantity of goods the preceding day, in sight of the Excise cutter belonging to this port; when, after the examination of several witnesses, the Jury retired and brought in their verdict, "Wilful murder against a person or persons unknown; but that William MAY and William PARROTT (the two reputed Masters of the said smuggling luggers) were aiding, abetting and assisting the murder."

## **Do not Barter with CARTER**

In November 1936, the law finally caught up with 61-year-old Jack CARTER, a notorious confidence trickster. At least, that is what they had believed at the time.

By the time of his trial it became apparent that he was not really the person named on the indictment but as that information had been submitted to the Court that was the name under which he was tried.

On or about 14<sup>th</sup> July 1936 CARTER and his long-time accomplice, Londoner 'traveller' Jacob BERCOVITCH (59) visited Maurice/Morris BUDINSKY, a monumental mason of Elmwood Street, Leeds. They convinced him that the brass buttons in their possession were in fact gold sovereigns. Mr BUDINSKY and his wife Celia fell for the scam and were robbed of £385. This was reported by numerous newspapers.

Both offenders went on the run. BERCOVITCH was detained in London on 23<sup>rd</sup> July 1936 but 'Jack' was not arrested until he was found in Exeter on 6<sup>th</sup> November 1936, by which time he was wanted for an additional, remarkably similar, offence.

At the BUDINSKY trial, when applying for bail, CARTER's supposed identity was brought to the attention of the judge and jury. It was claimed that his real name was Stephen CALAVIENY and that he had been born in Russia and was in fact 65 years old. He claimed he was a naturalised British citizen. His defence explained these revelations in a manner intended to cultivate honourable justification for the deceptions in that he had rolled his age back from 44 to 40 to enable him to join the British Army during the Great War. He also claimed that he had previously worked for the Police.

By the time of sentencing his previous criminal activity was additionally revealed and, to the disappointment of the law, with this came confirmation that neither offender in the Leeds scam could be deported. BERCOVITCH claimed that he was a Rumanian who had begun the naturalisation process in Canada in 1903, completing it in 1921 but this could not be proven. Plus, it was countered, he was in London under charge with another offence at the time. When arrested he had in his possession a forged passport. It was stated that he was also known for counterfeiting such items.

So, without contrary evidence, he was deemed to be without a nationality. Meanwhile, his long-standing friend, CALAVIENY's reasoning was that he would not accept the Soviet regime and had refused to sign Soviet papers

so he could not be repatriated. His earlier claim that he had naturalised seems to have fallen by the wayside by this time.

Without the option of deportation a custodial sentence was inevitable. As part of the legal disclosure it was then divulged that CALAVIENY had several other convictions for breaking into warehouses to steal silk and furs, mainly in London. This run of criminality was temporarily interrupted in 1933 when CALAVIENY was convicted of receiving stolen property, some miniatures worth £2,000. For this crime he had been sentenced to eighteen months hard labour.

By December 1936, CARTER/CALAVIENY was back in the dock. at Plymouth Quarter Sessions accused of tricking a Dr Albert Stanley BRADLAW, in Devonport, out of £2,300 alongside co-conspirators Benny WILDMAN (37), a tailor, and Hyman KURASCH (52), a sports promoter. Bank notes had been substituted with cut up newspaper in a deal to buy supposed gold Kruger sovereigns smuggled out of Germany in concrete blocks. CARTER had initially offered BRADLAW a Kruger sovereign as payment for a bottle of cough medicine. Throughout the trial he was referred to by WILDMAN as 'Conky'. Despite being in Devonport, CARTER (65) was reported as living at High Lane, Stockport, Cheshire at the time of the BRADLAW offence.

Mr F E HODGSON, for the defence, again explained his client's change of name and age as not being made for deceptive purposes. Despite this the evidence was damning and, in January 1937, the jury further convicted all the defendants. CARTER, who now styled himself as a chef, having worked in prison kitchens, received a sentence of three years penal servitude to run consecutively with the current four he had just collected.

To the delight of Scotland Yard's Detective Inspector GREENO, Hyman KURASCH received five years for one charge and two year's hard labour for another to run concurrently. It transpired that he was a career criminal, receiving other convictions in 1915 and 1921 in the UK.

He was additionally wanted by three different countries to answer larceny charges in 1923. He had been convicted in 1927 in Michigan, USA for counterfeiting. He ended up serving time in Parkhurst prison - according to the 1939 register. WILDMAN pleaded guilty and received eighteen month's hard labour for his part. CARTER/CALAVIENY came to Parkhurst Prison in March 1937.

By December that year, he was reputedly hospitalised within the prison. He died in 1938 in Parkhurst Prison from heart disease.

His burial place is not known but quite likely a 'pauper's funeral' on the Island as formerly he was largely itinerant. His death was registered with the incorrect information on the Island.

The Coroner, Mr Francis A JOYCE curiously reported the age of the deceased as 61 and his name as Jack CARTER, so it begs the question about what actual information he was supplied with by the authorities. According to the trials' testimony, he was 66 years old Stephen CALAVIENY from Russia – but was he?

Tony BEVIS (IWFHS Member: 1491)

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### **John Thomas BAINBRIDGE**

John Thomas BAINBRIDGE of 12 Wrekenton Row, Wrekenton, County Durham died on 20<sup>th</sup> December 1938 at Parkhurst Prison. He left effects worth £47,556.

According to the newspapers BAINBRIDGE, a master grocer from Newcastle-Upon-Tyne had written to his relatives telling them not to call or visit. At the pre-trial hearings and trial in January - February 1937 it was recorded that he had started life as a pit-boy, then as a grocer but had made a small fortune in stocks and shares and purchased property with the proceeds. The charges were brought against him by the Inland Revenue for tax avoidance (about £2,000 over 14 years) as he was buying property in the names of unemployed and pensioned relatives. His case was big news in the north of England. He was ordered to pay prosecution costs. His character was completely assassinated by the press. Maybe shame is why he did not want to see his family?

He had been seriously ill from serious heart problems since being admitted to Parkhurst on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1937 and admitted to the hospital ward by 2<sup>nd</sup> June where he remained until his death. He had been sentenced to three years for making false statements.

It is therefore quite likely that his body may have been returned to Newcastle for burial - if his family had forgiven him? After all, his sister Mary did place an affectionate death notice in the newspaper the very day he died.

## **Charles Escott LONG**

Private (PO/18461) Royal Marine Light Infantry

The First World War had an impact on everyone in the UK whether serving in the armed forces or grappling with the issues at home. For those left behind and for most people the armistice of November 1918 brought a huge sense of relief coupled with sorrow at the thought of those who had lost their lives in the conflict and who would not be returning home.

However, for many servicemen the fighting continued in some areas long after the date of the armistice. One of these areas was Northern Russia where, since early in 1918, some Allied forces had been involved in an intervention in the Russian Civil War of 1918-1920, which we know as the Russian Revolution.

What follows is the story of one of the men who, having served through most of the war years, was involved in Russia after 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918. But first, a little background detail:

Immediately before the outbreak of the First World War, the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston CHURCHILL, realised that there were more naval reservists than there were places for them in the Fleet so he set about forming them into the *Royal Marine Brigade*.

The Brigade was established on 2<sup>nd</sup> August 1914, formed with three Royal Marine Light Infantry Battalions (Chatham, Portsmouth and Plymouth) intending them to be a force of bluejackets (Navy) and Royal Marines that the Admiralty could use as an intervention and raiding force.

Charles Escott LONG enlisted with the *Royal Marine Light Infantry* (Portsmouth Division, 'A' Company) on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1915, aged 16 years, 4 months. He was described as 5 feet 4½ inches tall (164 cm) with brown hair and eyes (it is hard to imagine a young man of his age and stature being accepted into present-day forces).

He was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1897 in Alton, Hampshire where his father, a civil servant with the Post Office, was working. The family moved to Newport on the Isle of Wight when Charles' father was transferred there, for his work, between 1901 and 1906. Charles was enrolled at Barton School in Barton Village on the outskirts of Newport, the family living in Fairlee Road. After leaving school Charles worked for an ironmonger in the town but, following the outbreak of war in August 1914, he was determined to join the services.



Following his enlistment in 1915, he spent the next few months training in England and then, on 22<sup>nd</sup> October of that year, he embarked for the Dardanelles where he joined the Marines already on the Gallipoli peninsula. The Dardanelles Campaign was planned with the intention of an invasion by Allied forces to overcome the Turkish Army that had recently declared with Germany against the Allies and turn German attention away from the Western Front.

The Marines had been in the forefront of the campaign in April and had suffered great losses in the fighting with Turkish forces defending the Gallipoli peninsula – the idea for the campaign had been sound but the planning and, particularly, the execution of it was poor. By the time Charles arrived the campaign was considered to have failed and, during the continued fighting over the position of stalemate that then existed between the Allied invasion force and the Turkish defenders, planning had commenced for the withdrawal of Allied forces from the peninsula.

The losses incurred by the Marines and the inability to fully replace them meant that their battalions were reformed into two, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> RMLI. Charles remained in the sniping and shelling of the front until the troops were evacuated on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1916, with the Marines being the last to leave the peninsula.

Whilst some of the evacuated troops went directly to France and the Western Front, Charles, together with others from RMLI, was sent from Gallipoli to join the *Mediterranean Expeditionary Force* in Greece where another Allied force under French command had arrived in the autumn of 1915 to support Serbian troops against an invasion by troops from Germany, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria.

The Allied force had arrived too late, and in insufficient numbers, to prevent the fall of Serbia but eventually a stable front was established in the Macedonian (or Salonika) Front in the rugged mountain terrain of northern Greece. Charles was in the line from 9<sup>th</sup> January until his further re-deployment on 7<sup>th</sup> May 1916. He then embarked for Marseilles and the onward journey to join the rest of the RMLI on the front in Northern France as the Army assembled its resources for what became known as the Somme Offensive.

On 1<sup>st</sup> July 1916, preceded by an artillery bombardment lasting seven days, Allied forces launched an offensive against the German lines in the valley of the River Somme. The attack met unexpectedly fierce resistance, losses were catastrophic and the initial attack was a failure.

In the following weeks huge resources of manpower and equipment were deployed in repeated attacks and counter attacks with a major battle for every village, copse and farmhouse gained. At the end of September, the village of Thiepval was finally captured – the village had been an original objective for 1<sup>st</sup> July. Attacks continued throughout October and into November in increasingly difficult weather conditions until the Battle of the Somme finally ended on 18<sup>th</sup> November with the onset of winter.

For some reason, the first major action for the men of RMLI was not until towards the end of the offensive where they attacked on the River Ancre in November 1916. Here, enemy positions had bloodily repulsed all previous attempts at assault. The RMLI captured all its objectives as far as the village of Beaumont Hamel, at the time the furthest advance in the war, but casualties were high on both sides with RMLI recording almost 600.

Charles was wounded on 4<sup>th</sup> November and, on his discharge from service in 1919, his records show that he was scarred around his left eyebrow and he also suffered shellshock.

Until early January 1917 both sides were reduced to surviving the rain, snow, fog, mud fields, waterlogged trenches and shell-holes while preparations for a British offensive at Arras, due in the spring of 1917, continued. Recovering from his injuries, Charles remained in France until 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1917 and was involved with the RMLI in an attack on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> February on the north bank of the River Ancre which led to the capture of Miraumont - which ultimately forced the Germans to begin a withdrawal from the Ancre valley. However, once again, casualties amongst the RMLI were high and it may be that this was the reason that Charles returned to Portsmouth.

Charles remained on home duty in Portsmouth until April 1918 where with others from RMLI he was incorporated into the newly formed 4<sup>th</sup> *Royal Marine Battalion* and, significantly for the next part in his story, he qualified as a Lewis gunner in November 1917.

The Belgian port of Bruges-Zeebrugge was being used by the German Navy as a base for U-boats threatening Allied shipping in the English Channel and southern North Sea. The formation of the 4<sup>th</sup> *Royal Marine Battalion* was part of a plan for an attack on Zeebrugge, an audacious major amphibious raid of the kind for which RMLI had been created. The intention of the raid was to cover the sealing of the entrance of the canal to Bruges by sinking obsolete ships and so imprison the German U-boats and torpedo-boats there.

The plan was for *HMS Vindictive* to land her force (comprising raiding parties of 703 Marines from 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion and 200 seamen and using specially constructed gantries to reach the mole from the ships deck) just opposite the fortified section at the seaward end of the defences where they would storm the enemy gun batteries, light flares to guide the three block ships and secure the defences, holding them long enough to allow these ships to enter the harbour and scuttle in the Bruges (Belgium) canal. The force set sail on 22<sup>nd</sup> April.

The approaching ships were seen by the German defenders who fired off several star shells clearly illuminating the attack force and started firing. Despite the enemy fire, *Vindictive* managed to get alongside the mole but not in the position that had been planned. The raiding parties commenced scrambling ashore under a storm of fire from the German defenders. Improvising in the chaotic situation, the Marines seized a building (shed) on the mole and established a defended position to prevent any German reinforcements reaching the seaward gun batteries.

A group of Marines using a Lewis gun (in all likelihood Charles, as the majority of men in the raiding parties were armed with rifles, bayonets and grenades) attacked the German 90mm guns along the mole's tip, stopping them firing and enabling the block ships to pass into the harbour.

The Marines holding the shed joined the surviving men from another company to proceed towards a second battery of 120mm guns at the seaward end of the road. They needed to cross 200m of flat pavement devoid of any cover before reaching the trenches as well as wire defending the battery but the siren from the British ships sounded for an emergency recall so the surviving men fought their way back to *Vindictive* - with many carrying wounded comrades and some covering the withdrawal were captured and taken prisoner.

When all those who were able to get on board *Vindictive* let slip her mooring grapples and making heavy smoke 'almost asphyxiating those on deck' avoided any further shell fire. She was so heavily damaged that the stokers could see stars through the great holes in her deck and further damage was inflicted as the ship passed back out of the harbour with all those on board who were able to return fire doing so.

The damage on the ship was extensive, her wooden decks had been flooded keeping down the fire risk and were now covered with a dangerous film of flame-thrower fuel as these devices on one side had been shot to pieces. Despite the damage, the crew of *Vindictive* managed to get the survivors of the raid back to England on 23<sup>rd</sup> April.

It transpired that the block ships were sunk in the wrong place and, after a few days, the canal was open to submarines at high tide - although the action once again confirmed the Marines' and RMLI's reputation as a fighting force. In recognition of this action the King conferred upon the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion Royal Marines the award of two Victoria Crosses, the recipients to be selected by ballot procedure. His record shows that Charles was included in the ballot for the Victoria Cross.

There was not to be much respite for Charles. On 5<sup>th</sup> May he was transferred into the *Royal Marine Field Force (North Russia)* which was formed to support a small contingent of Marines that had established a base in Murmansk in March.

Murmansk had been chosen as a base because of its position in the Gulf Stream and, in contrast to Archangel, it is ice-free year-round and had been the port of entry for the stores and equipment delivered to Russia since 1915. Allied military missions had been sent to Russia since then to aid in the distribution of donated war stores and training and equipping of the Imperial Army.

The war had taken a terrible toll on the Russian people leading to huge discontent and, in March 1917, a coup overthrew the Czar and established a provisional government which, in turn, was overthrown in November by Bolshevik revolutionaries led by Vladimir LENIN. A civil war between the Bolsheviks and 'White Russian' forces that wished to remove LENIN's Bolsheviks raged across the country.

Upon seizing power, LENIN immediately proclaimed that Russia would cease all hostilities against Germany and withdraw from the war, repudiating all foreign debts. This was considered a gross betrayal by the Allies who desperately needed Russia to re-enter the war and draw German reserves away from the Western Front and were willing to support the re-establishment of the monarchy or a White Russian government to this end.

Early in 1918 the Allies decided to intervene as there was concern that German forces from Finland might try to take the inlets on the northern Murmansk Peninsula for use as German U-boat bases.

The Army, hard-pressed as they were following the German Spring offensive on the Western Front, could not provide further troops for the protection of these inlets so the *Royal Marine Field Force (North Russia)* was created to be despatched immediately to act in defence of Murmansk and secure the railway running south towards St Petersburg.

The Field Force sailed for Murmansk on 15<sup>th</sup> May, equipped with cold weather clothing and Westinghouse rifles and landed on 31<sup>st</sup> May. By mid-July the force had occupied a significant area of land along the railway line from Murmansk and this small force, with never more than 360 men in action, successfully created the impression of much greater strength - although their posts along the Murmansk (to St Petersburg, or 'Petrograd') railway were as far apart as Plymouth and Portsmouth and were in a good position to repel a Bolshevik or German attack but no such attack came about. On 30<sup>th</sup> July men from the force sailed to attack and capture the port of Archangel on the White Sea – the first overtly offensive action by the Allies against the Bolsheviks and marked the commencement of offensive British military intervention in the Russian Civil War.

In September 1918, the first reinforcements for the Murmansk force arrived from Britain comprising British, Canadian French and Italian infantry (but no further Marines) to supplement the small force in safeguarding the railway and carrying out raids behind the Bolshevik lines.

On 11<sup>th</sup> November, the Armistice was signed between the Allies and Germany effectively bringing the First World War to an end and this should have resulted in the withdrawal of all Allied forces from Russia.

However, the Allies did not leave and the British increasingly became entangled in the ongoing *Russian Civil War* and the British objectives in Russia became solely the restoration of a White Russian government and removal of the Bolsheviks from power.

In Britain it was not politically acceptable to send a further contingent of troops to Russia and large numbers troops would have been necessary if there was to be any success in ejecting the Bolsheviks from power, so the Allies had to rely on raising, training and equipping an effective White Russian Army but efforts largely fell short.

Bolshevik forces were carrying out raids against the Allied troops with attacks aimed at the vital railway link including the destruction of railway bridges and attempted de-railing of trains. These needed to be stopped or curtailed as during the winter months the repair of railway bridges would be a painfully slow process. The small Allied force had to be redistributed along the railway in preparation for winter, with arctic equipment and sledges issued with the men formed into mobile columns and where possible, trained in the use of skis. As winter progressed, the cold became so extreme that soldiers could not touch their rifles with bare hands for fear of skin sticking to the bare metal. The fighting became largely static with movement restricted due to the harshness of the winter.

During the actions along the railway in December Charles was severely injured with a crushed knee which resulted in the amputation of his leg.

This news was reported in the *Isle of Wight County Press* of 28<sup>th</sup> December amongst continuing bulletins of men returning from war service. The report stated '*Pte Charles LONG, RMLI, has unfortunately lost his right leg because of a train accident in Northern Russia where he has been serving for some time. He has a noteworthy record of war service for one only 21 years of age; he was in the fighting at Gallipoli and on the Salonika and Western Fronts and was one of the intrepid group that landed on the mole on the Belgian coast on the occasion of the famous exploit with Vindictive last spring*'.

Charles was not able to be sent home until 11<sup>th</sup> February 1919, travelling on HM Troopship '*Braemar Castle*' and arriving for treatment and recuperation at Queen Mary's Hospital, Roehampton on 7<sup>th</sup> March. Whilst recovering he remained under the authority of RMLI Portsmouth Division until he was released from service on 26<sup>th</sup> September 1919. He was 22 years old.

His parents moved from the Isle of Wight to Petersfield in Hampshire, no doubt in connection with his father's work and in 1920 Charles was living there with them. Charles, who did not marry, died aged 76 in June 1974 in Portsmouth.

#### NOTES

1. RMB/RMLI – It has been suggested that the idea for the formation of the Royal Marine Brigade was to effectively give CHURCHILL a 'private army' that he could use for his own schemes. If this suggestion is correct, CHURCHILL's resignation from office after the failure of the Dardanelles Campaign would have taken away the opportunity for any such use then but his later return to the government and intense rhetoric against the Bolsheviks in Russia may have fuelled the suggestion after RMLI men were sent to Russia in 1918.
2. The Salonika (named after Thessaloniki in northern Greece), or Macedonian Front, remained quite stable, despite local actions, until a great Allied offensive in September 1918, which resulted in the capitulation of Bulgaria and the liberation of Serbia.
  - 3.
4. The Somme Offensive, or Battle of the Somme, was one of the largest battles of the First World War, in which more than 1,000,000 men were wounded or killed in 4½ months of fighting for an Allied gain of some 6 miles of German-occupied territory. It has remained controversial over its necessity, significance and effect.

5. The Lewis Gun is a light machine gun, designed privately in America, the design was finalised and mass-produced in the United Kingdom and widely used by British troops during the First World War. It had a distinctive barrel cooling shroud and top-mounted pan magazine. The training for its use was intensive and meant that all trainees, as part of the final test, were required to strip down the gun completely and then, blindfolded, put those 104 parts together again correctly in just one minute. The gun was operated by a team of seven – a ‘first’ gunner who carried the gun and a revolver, while ‘second’ gunner carried a bag containing spare parts and the remaining five members of the team carried loaded pans of ammunition. The gun was a lot more portable than other similar weapons and by the end of the war, over 50,000 Lewis guns had been produced and they were nearly ubiquitous on the Western Front.
6. In the Zeebrugge Raid, 4<sup>th</sup> Royal Marine Battalion had 119 killed, 234 wounded and 13 missing (mostly prisoners) and as a mark of respect for their bravery there has never been another 4<sup>th</sup> battalion. German losses were 24.
7. The Royal Marine Field Force (North Russia) continued the campaign fighting actions against the Bolsheviks and their Finnish allies through 1919. Operations were taken over by 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion RMLI in July with orders to keep losses to a minimum and the initial Field Force personnel returned to Britain on 10 July and were disbanded there. The campaign had little popular support in Britain and 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion suffered a mutiny amongst its personnel in September. The force was finally withdrawn in October 1919 and disbanded.

Anthony EWEN (IWFHS Member: 0034)

Acknowledgements:

*Royal Marine Commando* by James D LADD  
*Nothing Impossible – A Portrait of the Royal Marines*  
*Churchill’s Secret War with Lenin – British and Commonwealth Military Intervention in the Russian Civil War, 1918-20* by Damien WRIGHT  
*The National Archives*  
*The Isle of Wight County Press Archive*  
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*The Long, Long Trail*  
*Great War Forum*  
*Wikipedia*

## **From Wroxall to Fleet Street**

Arthur James RUSSELL was born on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1885 at Winstone, Wroxall, the youngest son of George RUSSELL and his second wife Fanny (née ORCHARD). George worked as a brickmaker at the Winstone Brickyard where Arthur is listed as Brickmaker's Assistant in the 1901 Census.

He later wrote about his early life growing up on the Island, in his book '*One Thing I Know*', published in 1933.

Brought up in the Bible Christian tradition he became a 'Boy Preacher' and found a facility for public speech opened many doors including some church doors in his teens.

He later became a Lay worker in Miss BEAUMONT's Mission in Shanklin. Alice BEAUMONT was a London based evangelical preacher who regularly visited the Island at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Her preaching and recitals at various chapels were reported in the *Isle of Wight Observer*.

In those days there were some remarkable old characters in the cluster of hamlets surrounding his home; old Jimmy BELMAN, the shepherd, loved nonconformist prayer meetings. So did his friend 'Brother WALLIS', the stone mason. At one of their prayer meetings Jimmy BELMAN prayed that God would come down among them adding: "Come Lord, right down through the roof! Brother WALLIS will come and mend it up".

James BELMAN, head shepherd, was listed in the 1881 Census as living in Yard Cottages, Winstone. Henry WALLIS, mason, was living in Wroxall in the 1901 Census.

In the nearby hamlet of Apse Heath lived an old lay preacher who planned to preach at a Nonconformist chapel some six miles away. His ageing legs were his only means of locomotion. He arrived very late, very hot and very tired: too tired to give a humble apology. As he entered the pulpit he announced, "Friends, I don't know if you be tired of waiting. I know I be tired of coming".

After a failed attempt to join the Royal Navy in Portsmouth, A J RUSSELL decided to try his luck elsewhere on the mainland. He replied to an advert for a young journalist in a London daily paper and got the job.



He went on to serve many daily and weekly newspapers although he does not specify in his book which ones in his early days of journalism.

In 1909 he married at St Matthew's Church Brixton, Flora Lucy MacQUEEN. In the same year of his marriage he joined the staff of *The Standard* (later becoming *The Evening Standard*).

In 1911 he was living in three rooms in Arlingford Road, Brixton. A visitor on Census night was a fellow Island journalist Evelyn George MEDLEY. He had been appointed correspondent for the *Isle of Wight County Press* in Sandown and Shanklin in 1897. Also, a popular musician, in 1908 he is listed as the Wroxall Church organist.

Describing his work at *The Standard*, his editor wanted 'interviews with the celebrated' and walking across London had taught him the topography of the city. Tramping the streets in search of the people who were difficult to interview was disheartening.

Even more so when the interview at last obtained was not published. This occurred after an all-day search and eventual interview with Mahatma GANDHI. The paper refused to print views then considered seditious on the future of the British in India.

With the outbreak of war in 1914, he was employed in the Official Press Bureau in Whitehall. This government organisation would censor news from the Front and then issue it to the press for publication. In March 1918 he joined the Inns of Court Officer Training Corps and began training at Bushey for commission in the Brigade of Guards. His height of 6 feet 3 inches may have helped his application - but he did not excel on the parade ground. His Army record shows he did not see active service. He was transferred to the Army Reserve in January 1919.

The end of the War found him living in leafy Richmond in London. A fellow journalist, G A ATKINSON wrote how "A J RUSSELL fought his way into the manager's chair of various newspapers". He worked for the Beaverbrook newspapers, the *Daily* and *Sunday Express*, becoming the latter's Literary Editor from 1923 to 1926 and becoming one of the best newspaper managers and distributors that Fleet Street had ever known. He was responsible for the great *Sunday Express* rise in circulation that accompanied the serial publication of *All Quiet on the Western Front*, a translation from the German of an account of life in the trenches in the War.

Although now earning good money, he tried increasing his income by every form of gambling - the turf, cards, the City.

The more he lost the more determined he became to win. He wrote popular racing novels, one called *Trainer and Temptress* was made into a silent film in 1926. He opened tobacco shops, speculated in publishing and the Stock Exchange. 'The Street' regarded him as one destined for distinction in the field of newspaper proprietorship.

The Wall Street crash affected him financially. He concentrated on his journalism to recover. He came into contact with a Christian movement called the Oxford Group, founded by an American called Dr Frank BUCHMAN. By 1931 the group enjoyed wide popularity throughout the world and A J RUSSELL decided to investigate them for his newspaper. Travelling to America for the first time, he intended to combine investigative journalism with writing notes for a proposed novel on the twin cities of London and New York.

The novel never got written but following the Group's activities, he became converted to their cause and on return to London he published his experiences in a bestselling book called *For Sinners Only*. Published in 10 languages throughout the world. He became popular on the speaker circuit, travelling the country giving talks on his book and journalist experiences. One such meeting at the Portsmouth Arts Luncheon Club was reported in the *Portsmouth Evening News* in January 1936.

In the 1939 Register he was living in Finchley, London. He lists himself as author, journalist and publisher and his wife as Matron of a convalescent home.

By 1941 the family had moved to Worcestershire, eventually settling in Evesham. A J RUSSELL worked as a publisher, under the name of Arthur James Limited, of books of a religious nature. He died in 1953, with his publishing firm carried on by his son. His photographic portrait is listed in the catalogue on the National Portrait Gallery's website.

## Sources

Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates

*British Library Newspaper Collection*

*Ancestry.co.uk* and *Findmypast*. Census and Passenger Lists

A J RUSSELL *For Sinners Only* published in 1932, reprinted in 2014

A J RUSSELL *One Thing I Know* published 1933

Russell HINDLE (IWFHS Member: 2116)

## **Kite Hill House – Part 1**

Kite Hill House is a mansion house at Kite Hill, Wootton Bridge, which belonged to FLEMING Estates on the Isle of Wight. The estates at Binstead, Wootton Bridge, Quarr Abbey, Fishbourne, Havenstreet, Downend and Arreton were purchased by Sir Thomas FLEMING in 1609 and included the manors of Heasley, Combley, Quarr and Newnham, Binstead, Duxmore and Rackland – an area of some 4,000 acres, which remained largely intact until its dispersal at Auction in 1956. This is the front of the house in the 1970s.



This article is about some of the tenants of the house, using many different sources and including some family memories. Kite Hill Farm, attached and situated behind the house, did not always have the same tenants.

### **James PERRY**

James was the tenant of the house circa 1773. He had also leased the mill on the bridge from about 1750. James was married to Charity and they had four daughters: Jane born in January 1754, Elizabeth born in June 1755 who died December 1762 and is buried at Holy Cross Church, Binstead, Sarah born in September 1756 and Mary born November 1758.

Jane married Phillip BALLARD, merchant of Newport in August 1771, she was 18 and was married with the consent of her father, J PERRY, at Holy Cross Church, Binstead. They went on to have twelve children, all baptised in Newport.

Mary married John POPHAM of Newport in November 1787 at Binstead and had three children.

Sarah was described as a spinster/lunatic and remained to be looked after by her sister Mary.

In April 1773 the *Hampshire Chronicle* advertised: "Timber to be sold by auction on the 12<sup>th</sup> May at the Vine Inn in Newport in the following lots, now lying at Newport, Ryde and Newport, St Helens, Ryde, Brading and Nettlestone. For particulars, enquire of James PERRY, at Wootton or James SLADER, at Newport".

The *Hampshire Chronicle* of 15<sup>th</sup> May 1786 reported that Mr James PERRY of Wootton Bridge, in the Isle of Wight, died in his 81<sup>st</sup> year. Charity, his wife, followed him in June 1787; both were buried at the Holy Cross Church, Binstead.

### **Captain John POPHAM**

Captain John POPHAM, the only son of John and Sarah Shapleigh POPHAM, was baptised in 1758 in Newchurch. John Senior was the Lord of the Manor of Shanklin which had been passed to the POPHAM family. John Senior died in January 1762 and is buried at St Blasius church, Shanklin. Sarah Shapleigh outlived John until March 1803 and is also buried at St Blasius church.

The *Hampshire Chronicle* dated 12<sup>th</sup> November 1787 reported: "Yesterday week was married, at Binstead, in the Isle of Wight, John POPHAM, Esq, Captain of the Isle of Wight Company of Militia, to Miss Mary PERRY of Wootton in said Island".

In May 1788 it was reported by the *Hampshire Chronicle*: "The Isle of Wight Militia, commanded by John POPHAM, Esq, are likewise assembled at Newport. They are a very neat and compact body of men, have the same uniform with the South Hants and hussar caps. The whole united and reviewed, on the last day of their training, would make a very pleasing military appearance and disuse a spirit of emulation through the officers and men of each corps".

Mary and John had three children baptised at Holy Cross church, Binstead: John and Mary in June 1790 and Sarah Shapleigh in June 1796.

In January 1791 a lease for the house and land at Kite Hill was signed between John FLEMING, Stoneham Park, and John POPHAM, Wootton. John paid for, and was issued with, a Game Certificate most years, so was obviously taking advantage of the shooting in the area surrounding the house.

Tragedy struck the family in September 1808 when John and Mary's daughter, Sarah Shapleigh, died aged 12 years old; she is buried at St Blasius church, Shanklin and has a monumental inscription placed on the chancel wall.

In November 1808 Elizabeth BALLARD (niece of Mary) married Robert VYVYAN, Captain of the 69<sup>th</sup> Regiment at Holy Cross church, Binstead, by the Reverend A HAMILTON.

Tragedy struck the family again in April 1811 when their son John died aged 21 in Oxford. He had been a gentleman commoner of New College. He is also buried at St Blasius church, Shanklin.

In December 1812, John and Mary's remaining daughter, Mary, married the Rev Richard Walton WHITE, Rector of Wootton. Rev WHITE was the rector of Wootton from 1808 to 1855 - the couple lived in the Parsonage.

They had three daughters, Mary Popham born in October 1815; Grace born in April 1817; and Catherine born in September 1825; and one son Francis born in December 1829.

The *Hampshire Telegraph* dated September 1814 reported that John POPHAM, Esq, of Kite Hill, was elected Mayor of the Borough of Newport for the year continuing.

John died in June 1816, the last male branch of the ancient family of POPHAM, in Hampshire. Descended from the celebrated Lord Chief Justice and Councillor for Queen Elizabeth I, he was an Alderman and the oldest Member of the Corporation of the Borough of Newport. His valuable manor of Shanklin and other estates descended to his only surviving child, the wife of the Reverend Walton WHITE, Rector of Wootton.

In November 1817, Auctioneer Mr Francis PITTIS, advertised the sale of 2 lots on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November 1817 at the Bugle Inn, Newport.

“Lot 1 – a substantial well-built cottage, now used as two tenements, with a productive garden adjoining, situate at Havenstreet in the parish of Arreton, late the property of John POPHAM, Esq deceased”; and

“Lot 2 – a valuable closure of arable land, containing together about 8 acres, situate at Havenstreet aforesaid, now in the occupation of the Reverend R W WHITE. Immediate possession may be had of this lot. For particulars apply to Messrs CLARKE, SEWELL and HEARN, or the auctioneer, Newport.”

Mary’s invalid sister, Sarah PERRY, died in 1828.

In November 1834, the *Hampshire Advertiser* announced: “Mrs POPHAM, relict of the late Major POPHAM, died at Kite Hill, Wootton on Thursday last.” She was buried at St Blasius church, Shanklin.

In March 1835, the *Hampshire Telegraph* advertised the house: “To be LET for six months, from the 1<sup>st</sup> April FURNISHED, or UNFURNISHED from the 6<sup>th</sup> April, - a commodious RESIDENCE with stable, coach house, gardens and appropriate offices called KITE HILL and situate near Wootton in the Isle of Wight, well adapted for a family keeping a yacht and on the high road from Ryde to Cowes and Newport. To view the premises and for further particulars, apply (if by letter, post-paid) to Mr ELDRIDGE, House Agent, Ryde”.

Obviously, with not much interest, it was advertised again in May 1835 in the *Hampshire Advertiser*: “Commanding some sea views with beautiful land scenery. Attached are large gardens and shrubbery, three sitting rooms, four best bedrooms, two servant’s bedrooms, two dressing rooms, - in the whole six beds, coach house and stables and good water. TO BE LET, FURNISHED, for the season or a longer term. Apply to T W ELDRIDGE”.

### **James ANDREWS**

James ANDREWS moved into the house at Michaelmas 1835, the date of the deed was 30<sup>th</sup> January 1836. He also became the tenant of the farm in 1837 and 1839. In 1837 James built a dairy on the back of the house. The 1841 Census showed that James, his wife Jane, children Kate, James and William, along with two female and two male staff inhabited the house.

The *Hampshire Advertiser* dated January 1845 reported: “Charlotte FAMIDGE, residing at Wootton, complained against Mr ANDREWS of Kite Hill for assaulting her in removing her from his premises. It appeared complainant had prejudiced the mind of a Mrs McKENZIE, who was a

tenant under Mr ANDREWS, against her house and had accompanied her on her coming to deliver up the key after leaving it; Mr ANDREWS, being somewhat annoyed at the matter, forcibly pushed her off his premises. Defendant produced a respectable witness to prove that he did not resort to any more violent means than he was warranted under the circumstances; and complainant alleged that she could produce Mrs MCKENZIE to prove that defendant struck her on removing her. Her witnesses however, not being present, the case was allowed to stand over”.

In October 1845 James was sworn on the Grand Jury of the Isle of Wight Michaelmas General Quarter Sessions, along with 23 other gentlemen.

In February 1846 the *Hampshire Advertiser* reported: “James WRIGHT, late a carter in the employ of Mr ANDREWS of Kite Hill, was committed to the House of Correction at Newport for fourteen days for riding on the shafts of a cart drawn by two horses not having reins to it and refusing to give his name to the Superintendent of Police when asked”.

In May 1847, the *Hampshire Advertiser* reported that James ANDREWS, Miller, Kite Hill, Isle of Wight, had to surrender on 2<sup>nd</sup> June, at one and 2<sup>nd</sup> July, at twelve, at the Court of Bankruptcy. The local creditors who proved were: Mr Samuel PRING, Newport, coal-merchant, £57 and 7 shillings; Mr James ATTRILL of Arreton, farmer, £86 and 3 shillings, Mr Thomas LIST; of Fishbourne, shipwright, £61, 8 shillings and one penny; and Thomas WILLIS FLEMING, esquire, Black Gang House, £530, 9 shillings and three pence. The chosen assignees agreed to allow the bankrupt 4 shillings per week, which the Court sanctioned. James ANDREWS and his family left the house and farm soon after.

In September 1874, the *Hampshire Advertiser* reported that at Lauriston, Victoria, Australia, Mr James ANDREWS, formerly of Kite Hill, Wootton Bridge, Isle of Wight had died on the 24<sup>th</sup> June, in his 80<sup>th</sup> year.

In the late 1990s, a descendant of James ANDREWS arrived in Wootton Bridge on holiday and was interested in finding out more about where James had lived. The young man was sent up to us and we were able to show him around the farm and answer some of his questions. He had been told that James had lost the estate, house and farm, through gambling. Once given the correct information, the young man was somewhat disappointed – losing an estate through gambling sounds better than being made bankrupt.

## **Captain Dennis HOLLINGWORTH**

Dennis HOLLINGWORTH, a retired Captain of the Queen's Own 4<sup>th</sup> Hussars, was resident in the house for the 1851 Census. Born in Kent, and after an adventurous life with the Army, he retired around 1832 and after a spell in Tunbridge Wells, moved to Kite Hill House. He was joined by his wife Ann, two daughters (Matilda A and Georgiana E), two sons (Reginald and Christian), three female house servants and a male house servant. According to The Fashionable List of the *Isle of Wight Observer* they remained until June 1858.

Lesley ABRAHAM (IWFHS Member: 0540)

### **Sources**

Willis Fleming Historical Trust

*Findmypast*

A History of Wootton Bridge – The Mill by Hilary GOSDEN

*Isle of Wight Family History Society*

British Newspaper Archives

Isle of Wight Records Office

St Blasius Church, Shanklin, website.

Simon HOLLINGWORTH – “Captain D Hollingworth”

*Isle of Wight County Press Archives*

### **One Name Studies**

Until last year it had been the practice to list in the November Journal names listed in the One Name Study database on the website. A member would have to refer to website to see whom to contact in respect of a particular name. The list of names will no longer be published.

The search page can be accessed via the “Members” tab on the website; then the “Members’ Area” link; and then the ‘One Name Studies’ search link will take you to:

[https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/membersonly/ons\\_search.html](https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/membersonly/ons_search.html)

The “Members’ Interests” search link on the same page lists names being researched by members and includes One Name Studies.

Peter SPENCER (IWFHS Member:2187)

Journal Editor



## **Arthur William BROWN (1880-1924)**

The following account relates to my grandfather who died before I was born. I inherited his medals which led me, on my retirement, to find out more about him. Needless to say, the more I discovered the prouder I became of him.



Arthur William BROWN was born on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> July 1880 in the tiny picturesque village of Chelsworth in Suffolk. His mother was Mary BROWN, a domestic servant. As he was born “the wrong side of the blanket” he did not really know who his father was - but he had his suspicions.

He was brought up by his grandparents William BROWN (born about 1825) and Susan GOODHALL (born on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> May 1829). He led a typical country childhood, playing in the village stream, climbing trees and playing in the fields.

On leaving school he got a job as a gardener and, apart from following in the footsteps of his grandfather and becoming a farm labourer, there was little else he could have done. On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 1896 he walked the 16 miles to Bury St Edmunds, found Gibraltar Barracks, took Queen Victoria’s old one penny and became 4414 Arthur William BROWN 1<sup>st</sup> *Battalion Suffolk Regiment* and signed on to serve for 12 years.

According to his attestation papers he attained the age of 18 on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 1898 and was duly promoted from boy soldier to private.

His early life in the Army consisted of square bashing (marching) and learning new skills. On 14<sup>th</sup> November 1896 he was delighted to pass the Army Certificate of Education 3<sup>rd</sup> class and later, on 9<sup>th</sup> March 1897 to get the 2<sup>nd</sup> class certificate. He did a tour of duty in Malta from 10<sup>th</sup> April 1897 to 11<sup>th</sup> January 1899. On Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May 1900 he was posted to South Africa to fight the Boers. He returned to England on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 1902.

His service in South Africa saw him proudly awarded the following medals: The *Queen's South Africa Medal* with three bars - Transvaal, Orange Free State, Cape Colony and The *King's South Africa Medal* with two bars - South Africa 1901 and South Africa 1902.

Having served with the 1<sup>st</sup> battalion of The Suffolk Regiment in South Africa with that campaign at an end, he was transferred to the 2<sup>nd</sup> battalion on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 1902 only to arrive in Hyderabad, India the following day Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 1902. On 15<sup>th</sup> December 1902 whilst still in India he was awarded the mounted infantry certificate. On Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> November 1905 during his service in India he was appointed as drummer.

In 1907 he was serving in Aden and with the end of his 12 years of service approaching, with no better prospects than what he then enjoyed, he agreed on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> April 1907 to re-engage as a drummer - for such a term as would allow him to complete 21 years of service and a pension. It was on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> December 1907 that his tour in India ended; he returned home to England the following day.

1909 saw the battalion serving at Albany Barracks, Parkhurst on the Isle of Wight. On Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May of that year he was in the barracks hospital for 5 days having a nasty boil removed from his face. On Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 1910 he had passed a class of instruction in chiropody and also swimming. How he managed to concentrate on these achievements is remarkable as he had met and fallen head over heels in love with a local Newport lass.

Her name was Elizabeth Annie BREWER (Annie). She was 20 years old having been born on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 1890. She lived in South Street and was a domestic servant. They were married at the Newport Register Office by the Registrar Frederick H SHEPPARD on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> July 1910 with William GODDARD and Ivy PIERCE as witnesses. He had to get permission from the Army to marry in rather a hurry as their first child Arthur Ernest BROWN was born on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> December 1910 in Newport.

On Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September 1910 he left the family and transferred to Aldershot. In the latter part of 1912, his wife Annie was pregnant again. She was admitted to Aldershot Military Hospital in April 1913 where their second son was born.

The story is told that the maternity ward of the hospital was new and was due to be officially opened by King George V and Queen Mary and the Matron suggested that it would be a wonderful gesture if all the boys could be named George and the girls Mary.

I do not know whether Annie disliked the King or the Matron but she was adamant that no son of hers was going to be named George although she did agree to give him George as his middle name. So it was that Leslie George BROWN (my father) was born on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 1913.

It was Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1913 when he, Annie and their two boys left to serve at Curragh Camp, Cork, Ireland. In early 1914 he was offered civilian employment looking after the camp commandant's horses so, after 18 years' service, on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> January 1914 he made an application for discharge from the Army. He was extremely pleased and proud of his discharge report which said he was a good man, hard-working and willing. Fully trained in mounted duties, a good groom, honest, solid and reliable – and a good musician on the flute. He held a 2<sup>nd</sup> class Certificate of Education and had been caretaker of the Regimental instruments for over 2 years.

They were going to be living at Derryquin Castle, Kenmore County Kerry, Ireland. He was finally to be discharged to pension on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> March 1914 and placed on the Army Reserve List. Unfortunately, things did not go entirely to plan as on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March 1914 the Curragh Mutiny took place and the family had to make a rapid exit to their new home in County Kerry where he settled down to civilian life. As his service to date had been exemplary, he was awarded a Long Service and Good Conduct medal in October 1914.

His retirement was short lived as on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> August 1914 Great Britain declared war with Germany in order to protect Belgium. On Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October 1914 he found himself at Cork Army Camp, the nearest re-enlisting post, given a promotion and a new number. He was now P206 Lance Corporal BROWN of the *Military Foot Police* (forerunner of the current *Military Police*).

He left Britain for war in Europe with the *British Expeditionary Force* on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> October 1914 and arrived in Le Havre the following day. He took up duties controlling transport, mainly railways, which included moving troops and supplies to and from the front-line trenches and receiving any prisoners back from the front.

During service in France he served in Abbeville, Le Havre, Le Parcq and Doullens. He was proud to be promoted to Acting Corporal on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> April 1917. He was even more proud to be promoted to full Corporal on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September 1918.

Finally, and not before time, that awful war came to an end at 11:00 on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918 and he began to think his military service would have, at last, come to an end. It was not to be; as a reservist he was still in the military and would have to remain in France and help with the aftermath of the hostilities.

It was on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> May 1919 he arrived back in UK from Dunkirk for demobilisation.

Finally, on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 1919, and for the second time in his military career, he was discharged and placed once more on the Army reservist list and transferred to Class Z. He had to agree that should Germany not accept the terms of the peace agreement then soldiers with his experience would return if called upon.

His return to civilian life was short lived as on Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1919 he found himself at Winchester Barracks re-enlisting with the 20<sup>th</sup> Hampshire Regiment. It was on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> August 1919 he was on his way back to France.

He eventually returned home to the UK from France on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1920 and so it was on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May 1920 he was finally and forever discharged back to civilian life. He returned to the family home at 2 Church Litten, Newport, Isle of Wight (the house is no longer there), reunited with Annie and the two boys and took up work as a labourer.

In recognition of service in the 1<sup>st</sup> World War he was proud to be awarded the following medals: The *1914 Star* - for service under fire in France and Belgium, 5<sup>th</sup> August – 22<sup>nd</sup> November 1914, The *1914-1918 War - British War Medal* for service abroad 5<sup>th</sup> August 1914 – 11<sup>th</sup> November 1918 and the *Victory Medal - 1914-1918* for military personnel who served in a theatre of war (these 3 medals became affectionately known by the recipients as 'Pip, Squeak and Wilfred'). At some point during the war he was awarded a medal for Meritorious Service.

On 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1922, their third son Peter Charles BROWN was born.

In 1924 Arthur William BROWN was admitted to The *Royal United Hospital*, Ryde for what was supposed to be a routine operation. On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March, Annie and the three boys were on their way from Newport to see him when he suffered an aortic regurgitation (heart attack) and died.

He was buried at the Newport Quay end of Fairlee Road Cemetery right under the hedge. There is no headstone because over the years his grave had become a shortcut footpath from the Quay to Seaclose Park.

Alan BROWN (IWFHS Member: 1552)

### Sources

Personal Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates

UK Office for National Statistics Census

Ministry of Defence Attestation Papers

Map of Fairlee Road Cemetery Burial Plots

## Struck by Lightning

The Vikings worshipped Thor the god of thunder and lightning and many people have a fear of violent storms to this day. It is surprising then how few deaths have occurred on the Isle of Wight from being struck by lightning.

The earliest death I can find is Benjamin BUNGAY who was riding over Wootton Common in June 1760, both he and his horse were killed - but his eight-year-old son escaped unharmed.

A poor woman named CONRIGHT survived a close encounter in July 1824 - but it left her deaf and dumb and it appears she did not recover.

A young lad, William CHIDDEL, had the misfortune to be on the yacht *Whiting Point* when it was struck by lightning, off Yarmouth in July 1838, killing him.

In September 1881, James SHOTTER was walking to Shide from Brixton (Brighstone) when he was overtaken by a storm; he took shelter under a tree at Idlecombe Farm and it appears he was holding a branch when lightning struck. The force of the electric charge went right through him, singeing his body, ripping the seam of his trousers, snapping his watch chain and melting the case of his watch. This is the first case where a full report of the event appears in the local press.

The following year, in September 1882, George PEARSE a 17-year-old cowhand was sent out to repair a fence at Skinner's Farm near Cowes when he was struck by lightning and instantly killed. As with SHOTTER his body was singed by the lightning and his clothing was damaged.

It is unusual for more than one person to be killed in a storm but, in 1900, William COOK and Martin GUY were unlucky enough to prove that is not always the case. They were working for Isaac BARTON building stables for Dr GODFREY in July 1900 near Ryde; in all there were seven men employed on the job. When lightning struck, they were both instantly killed, several of the other men were knocked off their feet and some were rendered unconscious, a horse that was in the building was also killed.

Corporal Daniel COOMBES, a PT Instructor stationed at Golden Hill Fort was crossing open ground at the Fort in a ferocious thunderstorm when he was apparently struck by lightning. Another soldier found him and he was taken to the hospital at the Fort and given artificial respiration, to no avail. COOMBES was buried at St Saviour's Roman Catholic Church, Totland, in May 1916.

In August 1938 Charles CURNOW was on holiday from Southampton with family friends in Cowes, he was playing in Northwood Recreation Ground with the boys from the family when lightning hit him, the brothers DIMMICK, who he was staying with, got him home but he was already dead. Police Sergeant WINNARD said the lightning appeared to have struck the snake buckle on the belt CURNOW was wearing.

In July 1946, the *Daily Herald* reported that Eric Upton CLARE, from Thornton Heath, had been struck by lightning and killed in Shanklin.

The reports of all these accidents can be found by entering the keyword 'lightning' in the newspaper reports search at:

[https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/iwnotices/iwreports\\_search\\_1.html](https://www.isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk/iwnotices/iwreports_search_1.html)

Tony BEVIS (IWFHS Member: 1491)

**Email:** [newspapers@isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk](mailto:newspapers@isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk)

### **An Isle of Wight Guest**

In October 1949 Charles Geoffrey CORBISHLEY was sentenced to five years preventative detention at Bedford Quarter Sessions and was sent to Parkhurst Prison.

He was, in the phrase from the TV series *Porridge*, a habitual criminal, having, in the last ten years of his life, been free for only six months.

On 26<sup>th</sup> December 1951 he committed suicide and two days later an Inquest was held where the verdict was "suicide while the balance of his mind was temporarily disturbed". There is then a gap of over a month, until 31<sup>st</sup> January 1952, before he was buried at Carisbrooke Cemetery.

We will probably never know why the gap occurred but it is certainly unusual.

Tony BEVIS (IWFHS Member: 1491)

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*Ed: the burial database in the Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries website lists the burial in section B2, plot number 881. Burial Register Entry – Carisbrooke 12954:*

<https://www.foncc.org.uk/burials/grave-search/record.php?rec=23278>

## Grandpa HAYES, CLIP and His Seagoing Career

There must be many whose Isle of Wight ancestors found employment on the high seas during the Victorian and Edwardian years, whether they were seamen, stewards, carpenters or cooks. This tale is of a marine engineer and how I used the *Crew List Index Project* (CLIP) to discover more about his career afloat.

“Grandpa HAYES” was not my grandfather but my father’s. Although HAYES died in 1921 when my father was aged 17, my father worshipped him. This became abundantly clear when, before my father’s death in 1989, he recalled some family stories into a tape recorder to satisfy my own genealogy cravings.



Frederick Champion HAYES, son of a gunsmith, was born in 1853 and raised at his parents’ home in Briton Street, Southampton. Choosing to become a marine engineer, on leaving school he was apprenticed to *Mordey, Carney Ltd* of nearby Woolston but, by the age of 17, he was described on the 1871 Census as a “brass finisher, out of work”. This may have prompted him to cross the Solent to the Isle of Wight where he found employment with the shipbuilder *J Samuel White*. In 1877 he married Fanny, daughter of James TAYLOR who was a ship’s carpenter living in Castle Street, East Cowes.

Their early married life was spent at 5 Wellington Terrace at Yarborough Road in East Cowes, a house that was later destroyed in the Second World War.

My father told me that shortly after HAYES married that he went to sea as engineer on a number of steam yachts, including Frank JAMES’ *Lancashire Witch*, the beautiful *Xarifa* built by *J Samuel White* in 1894 for Mr F M SINGER of the American sewing machine dynasty and the *Paulina*, owned by the Marquis of Zetland - and the largest yacht built by the other White’s shipyard in Cowes, *William White and Sons*. He also thought there might have been a yacht called *Mera*, although he had no further information.

All this was fascinating to me while I was trying to piece together my family history. But did HAYES serve on other yachts during his seagoing career?

Then I discovered the CLIP website, which is a goldmine to anyone whose family members served on yachts and other merchant navy vessels.

CLIP is a free database of British merchant seafarers of the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, set up by volunteers to assist research. The website address is [www.crewlist.org.uk](http://www.crewlist.org.uk). It contains almost one million entries transcribed from sources including the *National Maritime Museum*. Included too are many Crew Lists from the *Portsmouth City Records Office* and these are particularly useful for family historians.

A search for *Paulina* in the CLIP database produced seven vessels of that name, giving brief details including their official numbers, tonnage, method of propulsion and port of registry. One can also search the database by official number, port of registry and even seafarer’s names, although to begin with I chose to search using the ship’s name. The most likely candidate was official number 104121, built in 1894 and registered at Cowes (it is worth remembering that a ship’s official number never changes during its lifetime, even after a new name or ownership). In subsequent years the *Paulina* had four other names.

Here is a screenshot of the initial information displayed about the vessel:

PAULINA	104121	Cowes, 1894, Crew lists 1894-1913	<a href="#">Crew lists, Portsmouth City RO</a>
		Cowes, 1/1894, Steam, 123 tons	<a href="#">Appropriation Books, RSS</a>
		Cowes, 1894, Steam	<a href="#">MNL, 1900</a>
		Cowes, 1894, Steam	<a href="#">MNL, 1910</a>
		Cowes, 1894, Steam	<a href="#">MNL, 1920</a>

Among the details available by clicking on the links on the website are images from the Appropriation Books in which the ship is first registered and the allocated official number and port of registry. Also available in this case are images from the *Mercantile Navy Lists* (MNL) for 1900, 1910 and 1920. The MNLs gave me further information about the *Paulina*, including her international code signal, where and when she was built, whether of wood, steel or composite construction, dimensions, power of engines, method of propulsion and name and address of owner.

All of this is useful for adding extra detail but confirmation of F C HAYES’ position aboard the vessel came from clicking on the icon labelled “Crew lists, Portsmouth City RO”. This brought access to no less than 27 transcriptions of crew lists for the *Paulina*, recorded at approximately six-month intervals from 1894 to 1913. That for January 1912 is reproduced here:



<i>Vessel</i>	PAULINA	<i>Dates</i>	1/1/1912 to 30/6/1912
<i>Official number</i>	104121	<i>List type</i>	D & 07
<i>Ownership</i>	MARQUIS OF ZETLAND 19 ARLINGTON STREET LONDON	<i>Registered</i>	COWES
		<i>Tonnage</i>	123 net
<i>Master</i>	HARRY WEBB QUAY STREET YARMOUTH, IOW	<i>Archives</i>	Portsmouth History Centre
		<i>Archives reference</i>	

Forename	Surname	Birth Year	Birthplace	Capacity	Previous Vessel
Harry	WEBB	1881	Yarmouth	Master	Same, Cowes 1912
William	MATSELL	1842	Burnham	Mate	<i>Lapwing</i> Cowes 1912
John	STRIKE	1860	Porthleven	2 <sup>nd</sup> Mate	Same
<b>Frederick</b>	<b>HAYES</b>	<b>1853</b>	<b>Southampton</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> Engineer</b>	<b><i>Fire Opal</i></b> <b><i>Swansea</i></b>
William	COLLINS	1870	Hambledon	2 <sup>nd</sup> Engineer	<i>Boadicea</i> Glasgow
Percy	WILLIAMS	1870	Mevagissey	Boatswain	Same
John	WELSHMAN	1881	Looe	AB & Cox	Same
James	STRIKE	1886	Porthleven	AB	Same
Charles	POLLARD	1873	Mevagissy	AB & Cox	<i>Sheelah</i> Southampton
Chares	MARSHALL	1881	Looe	AB	<i>Mildred</i> Plymouth
William	PAYNN	1881	Looe	AB	<i>Joyeuse</i> Southampton
Frank	RICE	1877	Cowes	Chief Cook	<i>Clementine</i> Liverpool
Harold	Galton	1889	Cowes	2 <sup>nd</sup> Cook	<i>St George</i> Cowes
Robert	PHILLIPS	1878	Cowes	2 <sup>nd</sup> Steward	<i>Vanadis</i> London
Alfred	BAKER	1894	Newport Isle of Wight	Messroom Steward	Same
William	JOHNSON	1895	Brighton	Forecastle Cook	<i>New York</i> USA
Fred	BURROUGH	1869	S'hampton*	Leading Fireman	<i>Miranda</i> Portsmouth
James	CORKE	1874	Cowes	Fireman	<i>Emerald</i> West Hartlepool
Robert	PRANGNELL	1887	East Cowes	Fireman	<i>Joyeuse</i> Southampton

\*S'hampton = Southampton

This Crew List is quite revealing. It demonstrates the manpower needed to sail a steam yacht of 123 tons. It shows the employment that wealthy owners provided to so many during their heyday before the First World War. It also gave me some valuable new information in that HAYES' previous ship was the *Fire Opal*.

Unfortunately, a new search told me that no such crew lists are available for the *Fire Opal*.

I then searched for the *Mera* and this time was lucky. After further similar searches and adding them all to the initial information told by my father, I was able to chain together a complete list of Grandpa HAYES' seagoing career between 1881 and 1913:

<i>Vessel:</i>	<i>O.N.:</i>	<i>Position:</i>	<i>Dates:</i>	<i>Previous vessel:</i>
<i>Sunflower</i>	?	2 <sup>nd</sup> Engineer	Yacht not identified.	
<i>Amethyst</i>	74451	2 <sup>nd</sup> Engineer	2/1881 to 21/8/1881	<i>Sunflower</i> Cowes, 1880
<i>Golden Eagle</i>	74446	2 <sup>nd</sup> then 1 <sup>st</sup> Engineer	24/3/1882 to 27/10/1882	<i>Amethyst</i> Cowes, 1882
<i>Speranza</i>	67573	2 <sup>nd</sup> Engineer	8/3/1883 to 23/6/1883	<i>Golden Eagle</i> Cowes, 1882
<i>Lancashire Witch</i>	78813	No crew lists available.		
<i>Barracouta</i>	98108	No crew lists available.		
<i>Euphrosyne</i>	94437	Engineer	1/1/1891 to 31/12/1891	<i>Barracouta</i> (sic) 1890
<i>Matador</i>	80459	No crew lists available.		
<i>Athena</i>	98483	2 <sup>nd</sup> Engineer	1/1/1893 to 30/6/1893	<i>Matador</i> 1892
<i>Xarifa</i>	106950	No crew lists available (United States flag).		
<i>Zaneta</i>	106935	Engineer	1/7/1900 to 1/1/1904	
<i>Mera</i>	88791	1 <sup>st</sup> Engineer	1/7/1904 to 30/6/1909	<i>Zaneta</i> Cowes, 1904
<i>Fire Opal</i>	48715	No crew lists available		
<i>Paulina</i>	104121	1 <sup>st</sup> Engineer	1/7/1900 to 31/12/1913	Fire Opal Swansea

As you can see, for those seeking information on their seagoing ancestors, the CLIP database is certainly worth a look.

Frederick HAYES was a keen amateur photographer and the family's prized album of pictures brought my father's recollections to life and helped with their accuracy after so many years. I was also fortunate in that, although there were no crew lists available, there was plenty of information available to the public about both the *Lancashire Witch* and, to a lesser extent, the *Xarifa*. HAYES took a charming photograph (opposite) of some of the crew aboard the *Xarifa* during a visit to Torquay.



Crew of *Xarifa* relaxing at Torquay

Frank James, owner of the *Lancashire Witch* on which Frederick HAYES served, was very adventurous.

In January 1888 the yacht sailed from Falmouth for an extended pleasure trip, stopping at Madeira, the Canaries and the West Coast of Africa before crossing to the West Indies and Charleston, South Carolina - arriving in New York four months later.

On 28<sup>th</sup> July of the same year JAMES and his crew sailed the *Lancashire Witch* from Peterhead in Scotland to as far north as Spitsbergen, where they reached the latitude of 80.30 N and anchored close to the Arctic ice. Here the yacht was photographed by Frederick HAYES in the light of the midnight sun (see page 50 overleaf).

In the spring of 1890, the *Lancashire Witch* embarked on another cruise of the West African coast, where Frank James ascended the Niger and made a series of inland expeditions before reaching as far south as Benguela in Angola.

On 21<sup>st</sup> April 1890 at San Benito, in what is now Equatorial Guinea, Frank went ashore on safari to shoot some big game. He and a friend were confronted by a huge bull elephant, but their first shot merely angered the animal, which turned and charged.

A second shot caused it to dash away into the undergrowth, whereupon the hunters followed. The elephant had rejoined its herd but it soon stampeded back towards Frank and his friend. The trackers bolted but eventually the two hunters were trapped by the animal, which pierced Frank through the chest with a tusk.

Nothing could be done and he died within the hour. A lead casket was made by the crew and the body of Frank James was brought back to England aboard the *Lancashire Witch*.



The *Lancashire Witch* in the Arctic in 1888

Four years later Frank JAMES' two brothers erected a seamen's home to his memory at East Cowes on land donated by members of the *Royal Yacht Squadron*. The home originally comprised alms houses for aged and disabled seamen but shortly after it was completed improved care made it redundant and, in 1900, it was used as a Convalescent Home for invalid soldiers from the South African War.

It was later converted into the Cottage Hospital where a reminder of the *Lancashire Witch* and her travels remained as the weathervane, a model of the yacht.

Alan DINNIS (IWFHS Member: 1350)

## Call the Havenstreet Midwife – Part 1

In 1872 Hannah FEAST, a mid-wife from Havenstreet, was engaged to act in her professional capacity. This was nothing out of the ordinary except the confinement was expected to take place at Pointe de Meuron, on the Kaministiquia River, at the far western end of Lake Superior in Canada. The mother-to-be was Lady Milton, wife of Lord Milton, heir apparent to the estate and title of Earl FITZWILLIAM - at the time one of the richest estates in the land-owning vast tracts of coal fields north of Sheffield. This, then, is Hannah's story but, to understand it, it is important to know a little of the FITZWILLIAM situation<sup>1</sup>.



Hannah Ann FEAST (née TAYLOR)



Lord Milton

Lord Milton, born in 1839, was the oldest son of the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl FITZWILLIAM of Wentworth Hall; he had suffered from epilepsy from childhood, a condition little understood at the time; at best it was treated as a mental illness and at worst regarded as demonic possession.

<sup>1</sup> Much of the background of the FITZWILLIAM family is taken from *Black Diamonds: The Rise and Fall of an English Dynasty* by Catherine BAILEY

The 6<sup>th</sup> Earl was apparently extremely unsympathetic, sending Milton away to various schools and institutions. Having survived to his 21<sup>st</sup> year when he could marry without his father's permission, he proposed to two eligible aristocrats but on both occasions his father intervened and the engagements were called off. After the second engagement Lord Milton set off for Canada where he and a companion, William CHEADLE, searched for, and found, a land route across Canada - thus avoiding the need to travel across American territory. Their account of the expedition, *The North-West Passage by Land*, was successfully published although apparently it failed to impress the 6<sup>th</sup> Earl. On his return to England, in 1865 Milton was elected to the newly created two-member Parliamentary constituency of the Southern Division of the West Riding of Yorkshire as a Liberal, together with Henry BEAUMONT. In 1867, Lord Milton quietly married Laura Maria Theresa BEAUCLERK. After having had two girls, Lady Milton fell pregnant again and the decision was made that the confinement would take place at Pointe de Meuron; there appears no obvious reason why such a remote location was chosen.

Hannah TAYLOR was born at Havenstreet in 1832; in 1856 she married John FEAST at Havenstreet and the same year she gave birth to her first child, Alice Maria FEAST. Shortly after Alice's birth John and Hannah took the decision to emigrate to Canada where they settled in Toronto before moving on to become homesteaders in the Moulton township of Haldimand, Ontario, Canada. In all five children were born to John and Hannah.

Hannah was not the only member of her family to emigrate to Canada; her sister Maria, who was born in 1824 and who had married Charles GRIFFIN in 1848, started a family on the Island but she and Charles emigrated at some time between 1854 and 1861 settling in Mitchell, Ontario. Similarly, her brother George, who was born in 1829, married Ann CHEEK in 1854 and they emigrated to York (now Toronto, Ontario) before they started their family. Both Hannah and John and George and Ann are shown in the Canadian Census as Wesleyan Methodists whereas Maria and Charles are shown as Bible Christians, unsurprising as they married in the Zion Bible Christian Chapel in Quay Street, Newport.

Hannah's husband John died in 1865 precipitating the family's return to Havenstreet where Hannah described herself as a laundress, although she was also a competent midwife.

Hannah was invited to see Lady Milton in February 1872 at 4 Grosvenor Square, the Milton's London home (it is now the Italian Embassy) to apply for the position as her midwife.

Clearly the outcome of that interview was successful and even though she knew that accepting the post would mean a long separation from her children, the youngest being twins aged seven, she joined the small party due to make the journey to Pointe de Meuron.

In addition to Lord and Lady Milton and their two young girls were Tilly KINGDON, their nursemaid and their physician, Dr Thomas MILLER. On 20<sup>th</sup> April 1872 the party left Liverpool<sup>2</sup> on the *RMS Scotia* calling at Queenstown (now Cobh) in County Cork en route for New York, arriving there on 30<sup>th</sup> April<sup>3</sup>. The *Scotia* was no workaday boat, she was a fast passenger liner previously having won the Blue Riband for the fastest Atlantic crossing and offering only first-class accommodation; her facilities must have been in stark contrast to the ship on which Hannah originally emigrated to Canada.

Why Hannah was summoned to Mayfair is a matter of conjecture; by the 1870s midwifery was becoming recognised as an important medical discipline and hospitals provided certificates to women who had done the required training. At the time the Isle of Wight was a very fashionable resort for high society who were attracted by Queen Victoria's Court at Osborne House, Cowes week, the Ryde Regatta, a host of balls and other entertainment. It is possible that Hannah assisted in the birth for a society lady, or possibly for a maid, and this was mentioned around and her reputation grew.

Having reached New York it is likely that most of the party stayed there a short while; certainly Milton took the opportunity to resign his Yorkshire seat<sup>4</sup> suggesting that he was seeking to make a clean break from England.

There was no easy way to reach Pointe de Meuron from New York, probably the most direct route was by rail on the *New York Central Line* to Buffalo then on to Goderich on the *Buffalo and Lake Huron Rail Road* line where a ferry across Lake Huron and Lake Superior could be boarded. Hannah left the party at some point, possibly in New York and journeyed on her own to Toronto, no doubt to see her brother George and then to Mitchell to see her sister, before finally catching the train to Goderich.

Clearly the Milton's had confidence that Hannah would neither disappear nor be late arriving at Pointe de Meuron.

2 *Yorkshire Post and Leeds Intelligencer* 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1872

3 *North Atlantic Mail Sailings 1840-75* Walter HUBBARD and Richard F WINTER Edited by Susan M McDONALD

4 *Huddersfield Chronicle* 29<sup>th</sup> June 1872



This is Hannah’s account.

June 6<sup>th</sup> 1872<sup>5</sup>

*Left Toronto early in the morning travelled by Grand Trunk 130 miles, arrived at Mitchell. Met my dear sister, spent a very pleasant time with her and her family. Received a great many invitations from far and near. Many a pleasant ramble we took together, enjoyed a very happy time. Whatever pleasure has its sorrows, the time came to leave my sister. Parting from loved ones need not be described, every heart knows something of it.*

June 24<sup>th</sup>

*Took train for Goderich. enquired for the steamer “Masocitone”, find have to remain all night. I took tea at an Hotel, then took a walk to the Lake, sat down and watched the setting sun in all its grandeur, met an old Christian, was much interested, told me much of his Christian experience. Went back to hotel, slept well. Went early to my old retreat, it is a lovely spot, reminding me of the cliffs of the Isle of Wight, hills shaded with trees with the open Lake Huron before me.*

5 This transcript of Hannah’s diary kindly provided by Ronald DUNNING



*Here I sat until I heard the shrill whistle of the steamer at which warning I left my pleasant bench and in a short time found myself on the wharf. I saw that my luggage was safe then went onboard.*

*This splendid steamer is fitted up for the comfort of passengers but my first attention was on a gentleman lying on a couch. I could plainly see his days were numbered and very few remaining. His hourglass was nearly run out. I spoke to him of Jesus but there was no response to that. What a hiding place he had failed to seek. I did all I could to help his poor wife who had a sick baby with her. The third day of our journey, while sitting by him, his spirit fled. A few kind gentlemen on board presented the young widow with \$150 and left the weeping mother with her sick child and the dead man at Saulte Ste Marie. But I must proceed with my journey. The first day passed pleasantly. Enjoyed the lovely lakes and good dinner which is prepared in the best possible way with everything to tempt the appetite. I had many nice chats with passengers and the afternoon closed. The warning notes of the whistle are heard; I go on deck and find ourselves at Kincardine. It is an odd-looking place. Being evening all the people of the village, I should suppose, had turned out for their new preacher who left us at this place where they came down to give him a welcome. I cannot tell but judging from the few houses I could see the people crowded the wharf. I suppose the whole village had come down to meet him.*

*After reaching Saulte Ste Marie, such a lovely scenery we had at this place, we passed what is called "The Locks" entrance of a canal, we entered through the first. There, the gates shut. Here we remain until the water rises sufficiently high for the steamer to pass. Then another gate opens, we then wait for the rise of the water to let us pass the third gate. After this interesting ceremony, we enter the canal and again find ourselves on Lake Superior. It is very pretty, dotted here and there with small islands looking lovely as we glided past them. In some parts of Lake Superior we can see no opening before us but as we steer our steady course we see an opening in the middle of a thousand small islands and then again we are in the open Lake. I feasted my eyes on the grandeur of nature in all her glory, such a sight had never gladdened my eyes before but as Saturday evening darkens over us, we were disappointed by hearing the fog whistle; and the Captain discovers his noble vessel was near a rock. In great haste, the steamer is stopped; here we had to remain all Sunday. Spent the day reading and talking. In the evening the Steward proposes a prayer meeting in the cabin. There were only three to pray but I trust there were many silent prayers offered. On Monday, the fog raised sufficiently for the Captain to get out of his difficulties and again we enjoyed the pleasure of seeing what was before us.*

*These islands are very rich: silver, copper and metal is found here in great abundance. I went on shore at Silver Island: it is a dreary looking place, scarcely a blade of grass. The land is covered with rocks and stones, with a few frame houses but very rich in silver. One thing I was pleased to hear, that not one drop of beer or spirits is allowed to be brought on this Island. I admire the law but not the place and was glad to return to the steamer, thankful this was not my destination. We then went on to Thunder Bay. Here we encountered a collision with another steamer, both got some damage, luckily no serious holes acquired. We anchored here. In the night a very heavy thunderstorm visited us.*

*Next morning we proceeded to Prince Arthur's Landing. Here I was first off the steamer, into a small boat and went to Fort William by two half-breeds where I made enquiries from the Hudson Bay Company and found that I must again take to the Lake. Two Indians engaged to row me in their canoe. I went with them but with a feeling of horror, for they could not understand one word I said. After five hours tedious rowing I reached my destination. But what a greeting: mosquitoes began in right-good earnest, teasing away in hundreds, each one trying which could get the most. Oh my torture, my pen fails, however, I got a hearty welcome from my suffering tourists. Each one told me of their own tortures.*



*It is a most beautiful place. One would wonder how it was ever discovered. But here I am and must make the best of it considering I am no worse off than the rest of our party, for our wretched companions make no distinctions from the bites, the blood pouring out of half a dozen wounds in our legs. The black flies are worse still, if possible and were it not for these unpleasant things we should enjoy our bush life. It seems so much like old times to me but when I think of my loved ones, that cruel death*

*and the wide deep separates from me, no place feels like home but a loving Father has given me the courage to say, Thy will be done. But I expect to describe the place whilst my eyes are searching the ocean.*

*In the first place I will endeavour to give a faint description of the lovely River Kaministiquia. It extends for very many miles in a zigzag fashion. the width varying about two hundred yards on each side. It is enclosed with lovely trees, shrubs and wildflowers and ferns in great abundance. Where I am now sitting, I have a very pretty view of some Indian wigwams on the opposite side of the river quite on the hill. Their grot (?) is hanging on sticks of wood. While outside their wigwams are placed poles with fish drying on them and a few other things I can give no name to. From this side it is quite interesting to me to watch their 'movements'. A child I see and I hear the wails of a baby occasionally. How they live at all I cannot understand, strapped to a board with mosquitoes sucking its lifeblood but some live, in spite of all the hardships. This tribe of Chippewa Indians are decreasing fast. But to proceed.*



*Here is a small plot of land cleared some years ago. A party of soldiers on their way to Fort Garry have made this their stopping place. It is very pretty with the river on each side of us and at this point the river favoured us with a turn which quite encloses the small piece of pasture which is covered with strawberries and raspberries in great abundance. Then, facing us, is a long range of bush which is left to the enjoyment of any wild animals until such times as the natives turn out for traffic which is mostly in the winter months.*

*I have taken a long stroll in the bush with very cautious steps, as I know there was a bear somewhere near us but the scenery was so lovely I was tempted on some distance to a large range of mountains which I was anxious to see. Here and there were deserted wigwams and the most lovely flowers I ever beheld. and the fire-flies dancing here and there. The nurse and myself ran back to our quarters for we were nearly eaten with mosquitoes and black flies.*

*Nine weeks elapsed since we lived on this desolate Island, one more little stranger had joined our party, so we are beginning to pack for our departure”.*

The photo below is of William Charles Wentworth de Meuron FITZWILLIAM, at whose birth Hannah FEAST assisted as midwife on 26<sup>th</sup> July 1872 at Prince Arthur Landing, Thunder Bay in Ontario.



*“August 23<sup>rd</sup>: We have packed and are waiting for the tug been expecting the last two days. We have nothing left to eat but bread and jam, our home presents nothing but poverty, eating what we have in our packing cases. We have sent some soldiers to the Fort for some provisions: they had brought whiskey with them in the middle of the night, we were very much alarmed, with shouts and screams our intoxicated Indians were returning but instead of bringing what we expected, they had upset their canoe and our provisions were left in the river. The accident happening not very far from land an old Indian engaged the next morning to go and*

*dive for the meat which he succeeded in bringing on his back all dripping with water, it was most delightful for us to see poor old Betice with something to satisfy. We cooked it immediately and enjoyed it. In England, we should have been quite disgusted, it was a piece of lamb and after lying in the river all night it was not very tempting to look at but we were very hungry and so we enjoyed it but all the rest of our provisions were still in the river and could not possibly be got. We went to bed early as we had no light we groped for our resting places in the dark. Four days passed waiting for the tug, when just as it was getting dark we heard the whistle of the steamer tug coming down the river. In great haste, we began to put our few scattered things together. Baby's bed is packed and children dressed when we hear from the steamer that the men on board are very tipsy. We see another night must be spent on our desolate home. We arise at four in the morning and again prepare to depart. At six we find ourselves on board the tug. It was with no small joy that I bid farewell to our romantic home”.*

Tony BEVIS (IWFHS Member: 1491)

**Email:** [newspapers@isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk](mailto:newspapers@isle-of-wight-fhs.co.uk)

## Help Wanted

### HARBOURN Family



The photograph on the left came recently into my possession which is rumoured to show members of the HARBOURN family.

The inscription on the rear states:

“From the St Boniface Studio, 137, High St., Ventnor”

Research has shown that this photographic studio was operated by James BRIDDON (1827-1894), followed by his son John Edward BRIDDON (1854-1941).

The photograph (left) is somewhat of a conundrum

as I am struggling to identify anybody depicted.

There is a possibility that my great-grandfather George HARBOURN (1861-1932) is the gentleman seated on the chair - or the younger person behind him wearing a bow tie. If he is the younger person, then there is the possibility that the gentleman seated is my 2x great-grandfather William HARBOURN (1813-1879).

I lack the expertise to date the photograph and would be grateful if anybody could advise me on the likely period as this might help me to identify the individuals. Naturally, any other information would be greatly appreciated.

Stephen RANDALL (IWFHS Member: 0201)

## New Members

***It is courteous to respond to any messages from other members but please do check your Junk / Spam folders regularly as we have had reports that some messages passing between members have been flagged as Spam.***

4146	Mr John LAING			
	BEVIS	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	HILLS	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	STEWARD	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
4147	Mrs Tegan & Mr Cal RUSSELL-THOMPSON			
	JEFFERY	IOW	All Areas	17 <sup>th</sup> & 18 <sup>th</sup> Centuries
	MOORE	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	RUSSELL	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	SNOW	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
4148	Mrs Ainsley MCLAREN			
	MITCHELL	IOW	Ryde	19 <sup>th</sup> Century
4149	Mr Kevin COLE			
	BURKE	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	COLE	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	DUFFET	DOR	All Areas	All Periods
	DUFFETT	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	HABGOOD	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	HODGE	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	SMITH	HAM	All Areas	All Periods
	SMITH	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
4150	Mrs Jayne & Mr Graham DAVIES			
	JEFFERIES	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	REW	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	STREET	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
4151	Mr Paul & Mrs Ann SAUNDERS			
	BRETT	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	DOWNER	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	SAUNDERS	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
4152	Ms Caroline MASKILL			
	COTTON	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	TEMPLE	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	WAY	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	WHEELER	IOW	All Areas	All Periods

4153	Mr Paul ERLAM			
	COLLINS	IOW	Rookley	All Periods
	ERLAM	IOW	Rookley	All Periods
4154	Dr Peter BEAZLEY			
	BEAZLEY	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	LOADER	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	MEADER	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	WEEKS	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
4155	Mr Brian MOTH			
	COLLINS	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	MOTH	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
4156	Mr John DELANY			
	DOWNER	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	JOHNSON	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	OSBORNE	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	WHEELER	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
4157	Mrs Pascale LUCAS <i>(no research interests yet received)</i>			
4158	Mr R BROWN <i>(no research interests yet received)</i>			
4159	Ms Frances WILLIAMS			
	CORNEY	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	DAISH	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	LEAL	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	PRESSEY	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
4160	Mr Keith & Mrs Paula BUCKETT			
	BUCKETT	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	CHICK	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	FLUX	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
4161	Dr Leslie LAMBERT <i>(no research interests yet received)</i>			
4162	Mr Marc PARDEY <i>(no research interests yet received)</i>			
4163	Miss Brogan WATKINSON			
	ATTRILL	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	BARTON	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	WHEELER	IOW	All Areas	All Periods

4164	Miss Kirsty BROOMHEAD			
	BAKER	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	DENHAM	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	REYNARD	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	WHITE	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
4165	Mrs Jocelyn AUSTIN			
	LAWES	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	MURSELL	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
4166	Mr Francis & Mrs Candice QUINTON <i>(no research interests yet received)</i>			
4167	Mrs Doris KELLY			
	IVES	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	READ	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	ROGERS	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
4168	Mrs Lee HAWKINS			
	CAMPBELL	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	HARLOW	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	WEST	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
4169	Mrs Elizabeth ANGEL			
	BAKER	IOW	All Areas	17 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries
4170	Mrs Rebecca EDWARDS			
	MERWOOD	IOW	Freshwater	All Periods
	SPENCER	IOW	Freshwater	All Periods
4171	Mr Martin WICKHAM			
	BUTCHER	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	CASS	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	ROBERTS	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	WOOLDRIDGE	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
4172	Mr Roy WATTON & Ms Christine PEARCE			
	ALLEN	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
4173	Mr Samuel BOWMAN & Ms Lorraine GREENHAM			
	BROWN	IOW	Gatcombe	All Periods
	GREENHAM	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
4174	Mr David BARTON & Dr Wendy RICHARDS			
	BROWNE	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	COLE	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	HEARN	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	THARLE	IOW	All Areas	All Periods



- |      |   |     |           |  |
|------|---|-----|-----------|--|
| 4175 | Mrs FARRELL                                 |     |           |  |
|      | COFFIN                                      | IOW | All Areas | 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries |
|      | DAY   | IOW | All Areas | 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries |
| 4176 | Mr Stephen LEARMOUTH                        |     |           |  |
|      | LEARMOUTH                                   | IOW | All Areas | All Periods                                  |
| 4177 | Mrs Katie GOODWIN                           |     |           |  |
|      | CREW  | IOW | All Areas | All Periods                                  |
|      | DAMP  | IOW | All Areas | All Periods                                  |
|      | NEWBERRY                                    | IOW | All Areas | All Periods                                  |
|      | SCOTT                                       | IOW | All Areas | All Periods                                  |
| 4178 | Ms Wendy GEORGE                             |     |           |  |
|      | <i>(no research interests yet received)</i> |     |           |  |
| 4179 | Ms Treena SARA                              |     |           |  |
|      | ATTRILL                                     | IOW | All Areas | All Periods                                  |
|      | DAY   | IOW | All Areas | All Periods                                  |
|      | JACOBS                                      | IOW | All Areas | All Periods                                  |
|      | MARKS                                       | IOW | All Areas | All Periods                                  |
| 4180 | Mr Piers & Mrs Marion POTIPHAR              |     |           |  |
|      | BUCKETT                                     | HAM | All Areas | 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> Centuries |
|      | BUCKETT                                     | IOW | All Areas | 17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup> Centuries |
|      | FIELD                                       | HAM | All Areas | 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> Centuries |
|      | FIELD                                       | IOW | All Areas | 19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> Centuries |
|      | HELBY                                       | HAM | All Areas | 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries |
|      | HELBY                                       | IOW | All Areas | 18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries |
|      | HENNEQUIN                                   | IOW | Binstead  | 19 <sup>th</sup> Century                     |
| 4181 | Mrs Margaret McALPIN                        |     |           |  |
|      | CLAVELL                                     | IOW | All Areas | All Periods                                  |
|      | SHERRINGTON                                 | IOW | All Areas | All Periods                                  |
|      | URRY  | IOW | All Areas | All Periods                                  |
| 4182 | Ms Jeannette SUTTERS                        |     |           |  |
|      | <i>(no research interests yet received)</i> |     |           |  |

**Change to Membership Details**

0444 Mr Robert LUFF  
*Robert has taken over the membership from his late mother*

ANSELL	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
GREGORY	HAM	All Areas	All Periods
JACKSON	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
WADE	IOW	All Areas	All Periods

**Returning Members**

1354	Mr John LONG			
	HOLLIS	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	LONG	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	SCOVELL	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
1520	Mr George & Mrs Linda PALMER			
	COX	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	HUGHES	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	SWEENEY	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
1921	Mrs Sheila ETTRIDGE			
	<i>(no research interests yet received)</i>			
2257	Mrs Annice WALSH			
	DYER	IOW	Newport	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> Centuries
	KING	IOW	Godshill/ Ventnor	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup> Centuries
	OSMOND	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	PITTIS	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
2263	Mrs Pat HAMILTON			
	FOUQUET	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	GOTER	IOW	All Areas	All Periods
	SNUDDEN	HAM	Milton/ Lymington	All Periods
	SNUDDEN	IOW	Niton/ Freshwater	All Periods
3069	Mrs Brenda KEMP			
	BRADEN	IOW	All Areas	17 <sup>th</sup> Century
	CHIVERTON	IOW	Wellow	18 <sup>th</sup> Century
	HENDICOTT	IOW	Carisbrooke	18 <sup>th</sup> Century
	JACOBS	IOW	Carisbrooke	18 <sup>th</sup> Century

## **Some Useful Addresses**

Isle of Wight County Record Office (closed on TUESDAYS)

26 Hillside, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 2EB

Email: [record.office@iow.gov.uk](mailto:record.office@iow.gov.uk)

Website: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Council/OtherServices/Record-Office/>

Isle of Wight Register Office

Seaclose Offices, Fairlee Road, Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 2QS

Email: [registrars@iow.gov.uk](mailto:registrars@iow.gov.uk)

Website: <https://www.iow.gov.uk/Residents/Democratic-and-Registration-Services/Registration-of-Births-Deaths-Marriages-and-Civil/>

Bembridge Heritage Society

Website: <http://www.bembridgeheritage.org.uk/>

Brading Community Archive

Website: <https://www.bradingcommunityarchive.com/>

Freshwater and Totland Archive Group

Website: <http://www.fatag.co.uk/>

Friends of East Cowes Cemetery

Website: [www.friendsofeastcowes.org.uk](http://www.friendsofeastcowes.org.uk)

Friends of Newport & Carisbrooke Cemeteries

Website: <https://foncc.org.uk/>

Friends of Northwood Cemetery

Website: [www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk](http://www.friendsofnorthwoodcemetery.org.uk)

The Isle of Wight History Centre

Website: <https://www.iwhistory.org.uk/>

Ryde Social Heritage Group

Website: <https://www.rshg.org.uk/>

Shalfleet Local and Family History Sources

Website: <http://www.sources.shalfleet.net/>

Ventnor Heritage Centre

Website: <https://ventnorheritage.org.uk/>

Family History Federation

Website: <https://www.familyhistoryfederation.com/>

The National Archives

Website: <https://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/>



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